

THE TIMES

1785-1985

Tomorrow

Going it alone
The mothers who
leave their
children behind
Germany reborn
The rebuilding
of a nation
after defeat
Outward bound
Pioneers of
the travel
book boom
Playing for the world
Preview of England's
World Cup match
against Romania

Portfolio

There is \$4,000 available to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today - the daily £2,000 prize is doubled, because no-one won yesterday. Portfolio list, page 24; how to play, information service, back page.
On Saturday the weekly prize will be \$60,000 because there was no winner of the £20,000 last week, or the week before. To it will be added the daily £2,000, making a total of \$62,000 available to be won.

Reagan's rebuke to Congress

President Reagan accused Congress of voting in support of a totalitarian, Marxist-Leninist Nicaragua by refusing to support his request for aid to the Contra rebels. In Moscow Nicaragua's President Ortega signed an economic aid pact with the Soviet Union. Page 6

Jasmine inquiry

An inquiry into the death of Jasmine Beckford, aged four, who was killed by her step-father, will examine 15 "areas of concern" in the social services handling of the case. Page 2

Late starter

The seventeenth US space shuttle mission began when Challenger blasted off two minutes 18 seconds late because of a small problem with the fuel process systems. Page 6

Secrets trial

An SAS Colonel has pleaded guilty at a court martial to keeping documents in his possession in contravention of the Official Secrets Act. Page 2

Canada pledge

Canadian soil is free from nuclear weapons, and we plan to keep it that way, the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, said in London. Page 8

17,000 sacked

The number of black gold miners sacked after stoppages and unrest in South Africa has reached 17,000. Page 7

Essex win

Essex, the county cricket champions, won their first match of the new season when they beat Warwickshire by 89 runs. Page 30

ENIGMA

More than three thousand readers of The Times cracked the ENIGMA code in last week's competition. The second in a series of six competitions with exciting prizes is launched today by Computer Horizons on page 29.

Leader page, 17
Letters: On superstores, from Mr S W Martin; teachers, from Mr R Parker Jervis
Leading articles: NCCL; Rand Daily Mail; Hampstead Heath
Features, pages 12, 13, 16
Hungary at the hussings; Bernard Levin fumes about anti-smoking manoeuvres, which war songs linger on? Norman Hartnell in retrospect; Forty years on, part two
Obituary, page 18
Professor D. M. Wovles, Albert Maltz
Computer Horizons, pages 25-29
ICL claims lead on rivals; OECD call for freer data flow; telecommunications and the Third World; Growth of Bulletin Boards

House News	2-4	Law Report	29
Overseas	5-8	Night Sky	18
Arts	18	Parliament	4
Books	18	Sale Room	18
Bridge	18	Science	18
Business	19-24	Sport	29-31
Court	18	TV & Radio	35
Crosswords	12-36	Theatre, etc	35
Diary	16	Weather	36
Events	36	Wills	18

Welsh pits join fight to thwart Scargill

By Craig Seton and Tim Jones

Combined opposition from the militant South Wales area and moderate Nottinghamshire miners is set to defeat sweeping changes in the National Union of Mineworkers' rulebook that opponents believe would further centralize power in the hands of Mr Arthur Scargill, the president.

The South Wales executive of the NUM has decided to oppose the rule changes at a special delegates conference in July after considering a report on their implications which gives a warning that they would give greater power to the national executive and even more authority over the running of the union to Mr Scargill.

A two-thirds majority is required on a card vote for the changes to be approved. Their moderate opponents desperately needed the support from one of the traditionally more militant areas if there was to be any chance of them being defeated.

South Wales, which has 200,000 members, will not mandate its delegates until the middle of next month, but a leading coalfield figure said yesterday: "We will oppose them lock, stock and barrel. These proposals offend against the tradition of democracy in this union."

Nottinghamshire, whose 27,000 members worked throughout the strike, is almost certain to send delegates to the special conference and its opposition to the proposals will be supported by miners in the small coalfields of South Derbyshire, Leicestershire and North Wales and, probably, by the union's white collar section Cosa.

Last week Mr Roy Lynk, the acting general secretary in Nottinghamshire, called "on areas which had supported the

year-long miners' strike to join him in a fight against the proposals.

However, even with support from South Wales, opponents of the rule changes fear that there is still one big hurdle to be overcome.

Mr Lynk and Mr David Prendergast, his deputy, have been called before the national executive on May 9 to answer complaints about their behaviour during the miners' strike, notably the ousting of Mr Henry Richardson, the area's general secretary who supported the strike.

If the national executive concludes it has no confidence in them, they may be suspended and then recommended for dismissal as area officials when the issue goes before a national conference. Mr Lynk told The Times that the threats are an ill-conceived attempt to stop him taking his seat on the national executive and to prevent Nottinghamshire leading the fight against the rule changes.

In South Wales yesterday it was made clear that there was no alliance between the area and Nottinghamshire, formal or otherwise. An official said that alarm about the proposals was spreading rapidly throughout even left-wing areas who now realized that Mr Scargill far from reeling from the defeat of the miners was now planning an even tighter grip on the union.

The Nottinghamshire executive decided yesterday to ballot its members on May 13 and 14 for their verdict on the proposed changes. Miners will be asked: "Do you support your Nottinghamshire area executive committee opposing the new national rule changes even if it means being expelled from the NUM or leaving the NUM?"

Parliament, page 4

Lebanese defiant as Israelis quit Tyre

From Robert Fisk, Maarake, southern Lebanon

After almost three years of increasingly harsh occupation, the Israeli army withdrew from Tyre yesterday leaving behind it an embittered Lebanese resistance which immediately declared it would continue its guerrilla war against the Israelis and their Lebanese allies in their new buffer zone north of the Israeli-Lebanese frontier. Indeed, the Israelis had not even completed their pullback to their new lines when - to the acute embarrassment of UN officers - dozens of gunmen emerged on to the streets of villages in the area nominally controlled by UN troops and only just evacuated by the Israeli army.

Many of the guerrillas holding Kalashnikov automatic rifles, seemed intent on mounting their own road blocks to prevent Palestinian guerrillas re-entering southern Lebanon to fight the Israelis. Israeli helicopters had earlier showered leaflets over Tyre, warning the population that they would retaliate two-fold for any attack across the Israeli border.

Nevertheless, the Lebanese resistance almost all members of the Shiite Muslim Amal movement appeared determined yesterday to destroy the Israelis' buffer zone in an equally fierce guerrilla war.

I found the village of Maarake in the French-UN zone yesterday evening surrounded by gunmen waving black scarves of mourning. After some argument they permitted me to enter the village where I was introduced

to one of the most prominent guerrilla leaders in southern Lebanon, a tall bearded man who refused to give away his true identity but who spoke angrily of his willingness to accept more "martyrs" in the fight against the Israelis.

"We will continue our struggle against the Israelis and their allies and the people who fight with Israel. We will get them out of Lebanon territory. Every village within the Israeli buffer area will fight against the Israelis. We'll struggle against them until they have left our country."

Four hours earlier Israel's last troops and armoured personnel carriers had, in a storm of dust, abandoned their forward positions under a Litani River bridge and driven through Tyre southwards towards the Israeli frontier. The leaflets that fluttered down on the city with their dire warnings did nothing to deflect the jubilation of thousands of Shia Muslims who crowded the streets, singing songs and waving both the Lebanese flag and the green, red and black banner of the Amal guerrilla movement.

Several hundred gunmen also came on to the streets, holding automatic weapons and rocket launchers and mixing freely with Lebanese government troops who drove their own tanks and armoured vehicles south to the UN lines. The only reminder of the Israeli occupation was a lone Israeli gunboat riding the Mediterranean swell half a mile off the coast.

Continued on back page, col 1



The Princess of Wales, wearing a black dress with a back lace veil, and the Prince, in a dark suit, with the Pope yesterday.

GCHQ warning may prompt full Civil Service strike

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Union leaders were last night preparing for an all-out strike in the Civil Service after one of their members at the secret Government Communication Headquarters, was given a warning that unless he renounced union membership by the end of the week the management would take disciplinary action.

Leaders of the 500,000 government white-collar staff were in touch with the TUC to prepare to activate a congress decision last September that a 24-hour general strike would be called in the event of any GCHQ employee being dismissed for resigning union membership.

Unions were banned at the Cheltenham headquarters and its satellite listening stations in March last year, and in a letter to Mr Des Quinn, a member of the Civil Service Union, the centre management has warned that he is in breach of his conditions of employment.

At least another eight GCHQ employees are expected to receive a similar letter from Mr Don Chidgey, a member of the senior management, which states: "By remaining in trade union membership you are in breach of conditions of service under which you are employed in GCHQ and the staff regulations which are applicable to you."

"This is a state of affairs that cannot be allowed to persist and will be regarded as a serious matter", the letter says.

It asks for an assurance within five working days of receipt of the letter that Mr Quinn will give up his membership of the CSU. It adds that if he refuses, "I will be obliged to institute disciplinary proceedings."

Mr Gerry Gillman, chairman of the major policy committee of the eight Civil Service unions, said last night: "This represents a dangerous hardening of management attitudes at GCHQ and the unions are taking the threat seriously. We will be seeking to mobilize the whole of the Civil Service union movement in support of workers at GCHQ who are under threat of dismissal for their union membership."

The unions claim that there are about 100 employees at

GCHQ still defying the Government ban although the management claims it is less than half that number.

The unions believe that about 50 employees renewed their membership following last year's High Court ruling that the Government's ban on unions was unlawful.

They were subsequently overturned on appeal, but the employees who rejoined had done so after originally signing away union membership and rights under union protection laws in return for a £1,000 payment.

It was not clear last night what form the disciplinary action would take and it could stop short of dismissal.

TUC officials were assessing how quickly a national 24-hour strike could be organized if there were dismissals.

A leading member of GCHQ Trade Unions - the body set up to represent the "rebels" - said last night that the latest letter had not surprised the organization. They had expected management to make an example of at least one of those who had rejoined the trade union.

The irony of the inquiry is that it had virtually completed collecting evidence, and the bulk of the inquiry would have been severely critical of policing methods such as restrictions on freedom of pickets' movement.

As Mr Gostin set up the inquiry, and is a member of it, it is thought that he can no longer be presented as the spokesman of an organization which has firmly repudiated his ambition to repair the image of the council as a left-wing front.

Mr Alan Beith, Liberal MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed, the party chief whip, yesterday said the NCCL's annual meeting decision not to support strike breaking as a fundamental freedom would prove a charter for the "bully and intimidator".

"The motion says 'refusing to go on strike undermines the collective rights of others'. It does no such thing. It undermines the collective power of others, but it in no way impairs their right to be on strike," he added.

Leading article, page 17

Glimmer of hope for teachers

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

A glimmer of hope entered the teachers' dispute yesterday when members of the management side, both Labour and Conservative, voted to call another meeting of the Burnham Committee which negotiates pay.

However, the teachers' unions, who met in London at the request of the National Union of Teachers, failed to agree on a joint approach in pay talks. The sticking point was the restructuring of salaries. The NUT will not talk about it; the other unions feel it is the only way for talks to progress.

All ten members of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, which includes the Conservative authorities of Enfield, Stockport and Bexley, agreed that there should be a meeting of the Burnham Committee.

However, the AMA does not have the support of the Conservative-controlled Association of County Councils, which dominates the management side of the committee.

NCCL disarray over right to work vote

By Colin Hughes

All six members of the National Council for Civil Liberties inquiry into the miners' dispute will announce their resignation later today, without producing a final report.

The inquiry's collapse is expected to be followed within a few days by the resignation of Mr Larry Gostin, the general secretary, who has been in office little more than a year.

The disarray follows a crushing defeat for the inquiry panel and Mr Gostin over crucial tests of libertarian principle at the council's annual meeting on Sunday.

The inquiry, set up by Mr Gostin last year, produced an interim report in December. It went beyond left-wing concerns about picketing and court policy, and affirmed the right of individuals to go to work during a strike.

The annual meeting, largely swung by trade union affiliate votes and Labour movement delegates, rejected that view. It also decided the inquiry had gone beyond its terms of reference in discussing any civil liberty issues other than those

raised by the police and judiciary.

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Leading article, page 17

Prince indignant over cancelled Mass with Pope

By Alan Hamilton, Clifford Longley and Peter Nichols

The Prince of Wales is said to be highly indignant that he was unable to join the Pope at Mass in his private chapel in the Vatican yesterday, and is said to have blamed "an old-fashioned mentality" for Buckingham Palace's decision to cancel the engagement.

It emerged from Vatican sources yesterday that the Prince's personal desire to exceed the customary formalities and to add a religious dimension to the current royal tour of Italy had been dropped on the express wishes of the Queen.

According to Mr Victor Chapman, the Prince of Wales's press secretary, in Rome, quoted by the Press Association: "There was no question of the Queen vetoing the Mass. When the final programme was agreed it was found the Prince and Princess simply would not have the time."

"It was a logistical rather than an ecclesiastical decision."

Mr John Haslam, assistant press secretary at Buckingham Palace, said: "In London it was never suggested that that was a decisive factor."

Any mention of the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales at the Mass at 7 am this morning before a planned breakfast with the Pope, was omitted from the royal couple's published timetable, but the plan had become common knowledge.

Vatican sources said they had received a series of letters from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, conveying the Prince's wish to attend Mass and discussing possible details. Dr Runcie was in favour of the plan, although he discouraged the idea of a

public Sunday Mass in St Peter's; the Vatican immediately suggested the alternative of a weekday Mass in the Pope's private chapel.

But the Archbishop's efforts were subsequently overtaken by the Queen's wishes, conveyed through Sir Mark Heath, British Ambassador to the Holy See, indicated that the idea of Mass was "inopportune" and therefore should not take place. Sir Mark, who had played no official part in the discussions up to that point, was said to have been surprised and embarrassed at the news.

It is customary for the Pontiff to invite distinguished visitors to Mass in his private chapel every morning.

It is understood that during the nine months of discussions between Lambeth and the Vatican to accede to the Prince's desire for a religious dimension to his Italian visit, British government legal experts were consulted, and could raise no objection, for instance, on the ground that the heir to the throne and future Supreme Governor of the Church of England attending Mass might have contravened the Act of Settlement of 1701.

The Act, drawn up to ensure that descendants of the deposed Catholic King James II did not return to the throne, forbids those who may inherit the crown to "be reconciled to or hold communion with the See or Church of Rome". But the Act has never been put to the test, and its precise meaning remains unclear.

The Queen, however, has taken a cautiously traditionalist view of the Act by whose grace

Continued on page 2, col 1

Nixon offers advice on Bitburg visit

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan, preparing for the first European trip of his second Administration, continued to be buffeted by conflicting advice yesterday about whether or not to go ahead with his controversial visit to the German military cemetery at Bitburg.

Among those urging him to stick to his plans to honour German war dead as a gesture of reconciliation between former wartime foes were Chancellor Kohl of West Germany, Nixon and Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State.

However, Jewish leaders, veterans' organizations and congressional critics continued their attempts to get him to call off the visit because the cemetery contains the graves of 48 SS men.

Government spokesmen in Washington and Bonn insisted

yesterday that the visit would go ahead as planned. However, the duration of the Bitburg ceremony has been scaled back to about 10 to 15 minutes, a quarter of the time the President will spend at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp later the same day.

In a report in the Washington Post, Mr Nixon privately urged Mr Reagan last week not to back down on plans to visit Bitburg. He said that although the President had suffered "substantial domestic political damage", a reversal of his plans at this stage would undermine his standing with America's European allies and his ability to negotiate with the Soviet Union.

Dr Kissinger was reported to have made a similar case.

Defiant Bonn, page 5

Spectrum, page 12

Wells Fargo robbed of millions in Manhattan

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Four cool bandits saw the chink in Wells Fargo's armour and slipped through it yesterday to carry out a multi-million dollar robbery. Estimates of the haul range between \$8 million and \$50 million.

Police conceded that the raid was well-planned and executed. The four robbers had done their homework and evidently had a good knowledge of the layout of the Wells Fargo building on the edge of Greenwich Village in lower Manhattan.

They broke in some time during Sunday afternoon and evening, the only time of the week the depot was unguarded. Then they lay in wait behind a door until four Wells Fargo employees themselves switched off the strongroom alarms on their arrival for work in the early hours of yesterday.

As soon as the alarms were

switched off the four bandits, all reckoned to be in their forties, sprang from hiding. They wore ski masks and brandished guns.

Their manner was calm as they told the employees: "We don't want to hurt you. We just want the money."

They handcuffed the employees to a forklift truck and spent 16 minutes loading 100 bags of high value banknotes from the vault into one of the company's own distinctive red-painted armoured vans. The van carried the Pony Express logo, a link with the time Wells Fargo ran the Pony Express in its Wild West and stagecoach era.

One of the employees was freed and made to start the van and open the depot doors. The van was later found, abandoned and empty, under the Brooklyn Bridge, about a mile and a half

away. Its plate glass windows were smashed and its rear door lock was broken.

There was an early estimate that the robbers had taken between \$25 million and \$50 million. Later estimates were lower, about eight million dollars, and police were awaiting the results of an audit. They said the robbers had left behind a further \$12 million in the vaults.

Police said the robbery was a professional job. An agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which joined forces with New York detectives in an intensive search for the gang, said inquiries were turning up "encouraging leads".

Although the robbers were well informed and knew of the staff procedures, the whereabouts of alarms and the need to persuade one of the employees to deal with the security system on the armoured van's starter, police said they doubted the robbery was an "inside job".

The gang entered the depot from an adjoining depot by smashing a hole in a breeze-

block side wall with drills and sledgehammers.

Wells Fargo was the victim of another big robbery in September 1983, when \$7 million were taken from its depot in Connecticut.

The biggest robbery in history, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, was that of the Reichsbank in 1945 after Germany's collapse at the end of the Second World War. Negotiable securities worth \$400 million were stolen.

In 1976, a guerrilla force took advantage of the civil disorder in Beirut to blast the vaults of the British Bank of the Middle East, escaping with between \$20 million and \$50 million.

In 1983, robbers took more than three tons of pure gold worth \$37 million from a vault near Heathrow Airport London.



And it fell off the back of a STAGECOACH?

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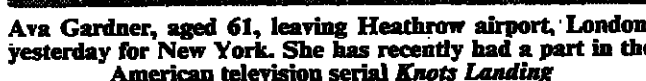
By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The disagreement over the impact on tax reliefs first broke with a DHSS officials' paper circulated while Mr Lawson was in Washington for an International Monetary Fund meeting the week before last. Treasury officials disputed the figures before Mr Lawson

But the reply will be seized on by the opposition to back its claim that the Prime Minister has refrained from visiting areas hardest hit by unemployment. Mr Straw said last night: "Mrs Thatcher is clearly happier to be playing on the world's stage than solving Britain's

£139,500 award
Mr William Freestone, aged 52, a printer of Salisbury, Wiltshire, who was left paralysed after a brain haemorrhage, was awarded £139,500 damages in the High Court yesterday. He blamed doctors for failing to diagnose hypertension.

Mr Tully boasted about the incident during a conversation in a public house. He also claimed that when he accompanied Mr Tully to Mr Knight's office, Mr Tully confessed to Mr Knight that he had been responsible for the stabbing.



Labour Party leaders are also doing the conference rounds this year when their message will be similar but also coupled to an exhortation to unions to ensure that they win "yes" votes in the

TGWU gets

Drug deals the upp

run of the elections due to take place in May and June has been postponed. The advertisements were to appear this week, but Mr Evans has been advised that he is attempting to include too much material.

Poll bac

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By Richard Ford, Belfast

Neutrality

cks Irish ne

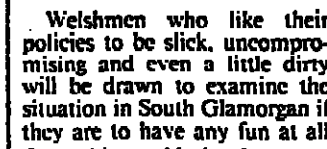
By Richard Ford, Belfast

Neutrality

specify her objections, but it is understood that a possible affront to the Presbyterian Church of Scotland or to

Wales's visit to the Pope was "very important and very significant" and its impact was not marred by the issue of

hinted strongly that they had joined him in prayers.



Enging in th

as the centre piece of a docklands development scheme. The total cost, after

Valleys

The Labour group says that the criticisms act merely to divert attention from the

Man cleared in film piracy case

OLD

significant" and its impact was not marred by the issue of

CHES BOUGHT

For only in that curious county, which throws together the green-wellington land of the Vale of Glamorgan with parts of the staunchly socialist mining

is locked in an uncompromising party battle being fought on the well-tried political principle that

costs ratepayers almost £1 million a year in rent. The Conservatives favour a much more modest scheme.

Labour, knowing that turnout at the elections is likely to be low, is adopting the strategy of concentrating all its efforts on council estates where it knows most of its support lies, with the knowledge that some voters

London, sentenced in February at the Central Criminal Court to 21 months' imprisonment, nine months to be suspended, for conspiracy to steal, had his conviction quashed and sen-

The Times overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 29; Belgium B frs 80; Canada
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France Fr 7.00; Finland Mk 8.00;
Greece Dr 120; Germany DM 3.50;
Republic 40p; India R 2200; Luxembourg Lf
38; Madeira Esc 125; Morocco Dir 4.00;
Norway Kr 8.50; Pakistan Rs 18; Portugal
Esc 120; Singapore

172

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Dirt and mistreatment alleged at council home for old people

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The borough council of Southwark in South London has launched a review of the running of one of its old peoples' homes after allegations of mistreatment, financial irregularities, filthy conditions and late-night parties at the home.

But it has only acted seven months after senior social services officers said an inquiry into the running of the home was essential, when its acting director of social services, Mr Gerry Armstrong, issued a warning that his department could "no longer take the responsibility" for running the home unless councillors supported strong action.

According to a confidential paper written in February and passed to *The Times*, the 80 residents of the Nye Bevan old peoples' home in Love Walk, south London, are "seriously at risk".

The paper includes cases, over a two-year period, of a resident severely bruised, another sustaining severe burns, and a care assistant using "violent, abusive language and threats to kill a resident" in front of other residents of the home, plus refusal to serve food to residents with one being "punished" by exposure to cold through a window left open.

Police were called in to investigate a case of "severe body bruising" in 1982, but were unable to establish the exact cause of the injuries.

The report, based on visits by senior social services managers, complaints from residents, by present and former staff, and by neighbours, says that residents regularly had to go without proper food, on one occasion being served bread and jam instead of a fish supper.

Window-sills outside the lavatories had been found covered in faeces, and neighbours had reported that faeces incontinence aids had been thrown into a neighbouring garden. Dirt was swept into piles and left, residents were left unattended for several hours, and of late-night parties at the bar disturbing the very frail, elderly residents and staff who were sleeping in.

The report also details the running of a bar at the old peoples' home which was closed in April last year after disturbances, damage to the building, allegations that staff were drinking on duty and after hours, and of late-night parties at the bar disturbing the very frail, elderly residents and staff who were sleeping in.

Residents' savings, held on their behalf, were drawn on at least three occasions to meet bills allegedly incurred at the bar, but attempts to reconcile the withdrawals with bar records were made impossible by pages of the "bar book" being torn out.

The bar was run independently of the council but is in debt. The report also says that a

senior officer at the home ordered £7,372 worth of artificial flowers over a 16-month period, the bulk of them for a relative, in *prima facie* contravention of normal council procedures.

Matters first came to a head last July when manual staff complained about the conduct of a senior officer at the home. He counter-claimed he was attempting to halt malpractices which were "rife", according to the report. It says however that industrial relations at the home were so bad that management was unable to start a formal investigation or improve operations at the home.

The report says social services managers feel there is "extreme cause for concern" about the running of the home and that their position is "totally untenable". They were able neither to launch a formal inquiry decided on last July, nor to investigate individual issues normally.

Southwark council said yesterday that after a meeting at the end of February to discuss the report, "an experienced senior manager is now based at the home and is undertaking a review of all aspects of management of the home".

The council was satisfied that the problems detailed in the report were being dealt with, a spokesman said, and a full report was to be made by the new director of social services, Mr Denis Simpson, in June.

Incentives proposal on traditional farming

A proposal to designate a number of "environmentally sensitive areas" in which landowners would be given financial incentives to continue traditional farming, is contained in a consultation document issued yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The document has been sent to more than 100 organizations concerned with the countryside, asking for comments by May 24. Ministry officials hope to prepare legislation which will be in force by the end of the year.

The areas selected will depend on discussion with farmers and environmental organizations, but they are likely to be substantially larger than the present sites of special scientific interest, and more on the scale of national parks.

Under an agreement with the European Commission, the scheme could cover up to 4 per cent of the land area of Britain.

Since it would exclude national parks and areas such as the Highlands, where there is no significant threat from land improvement, the emphasis is likely to be on discouraging the ploughing of marshland and marginal land such as chalk downs, as well as the spread of conifer forests.

Money for the scheme would initially come from the Government, although there is the possibility of EEC aid later.



Happy return: Pamela Owen, aged nine, of Fareham, Hampshire, returning to school yesterday 10 weeks after undergoing the hundredth heart replacement operation at Papworth Hospital Cambridgeshire. She was the youngest patient to have had the operation at Papworth.

Killer on run aimed shotgun at detective

By Michael Horsnell

A detective yesterday spoke of his shock when he opened the back door of a van in a London street and found a convicted killer, James Baigrie, staring at him from beneath an orange blanket.

Det. Con. Peter Bicksley said: "Gladly morning, I'm an armed police officer".

Then he dived for cover as Baigrie, aged 33, who was on the run from Saughton prison in Edinburgh, where he was serving a life sentence for murder, levelled a Soviet-made 12-bore shotgun at him.

That was the start of a 43-hour siege in Earls Court, west London, last month which ended when Baigrie was found dead from a shotgun wound which left his face unrecognizable, a coroner's jury was told.

The inquest resumes today at Westminster Coroner's Court where police denied a suggestion by a lawyer from the National Council for Civil Liberties, who is representing the dead man's family, that Baigrie was denied the opportunity to speak to friends who thought they could help him in his predicament.

Near the end of the siege Baigrie had told negotiators he was not going to come out but was instead "going to shoot his head".

With members of Scotland Yard's D-11 firearms squad surrounding the van, a plan to get Baigrie out was devised.

This was put into operation at 1.43 am on March 23, when a police constable fired two CS Ferret cartridges through each of the two rear windows.

A loudspeaker appeal for Baigrie to give himself up was begun, but 25.5 seconds after the first cartridge was fired, a muffled explosion was heard from the inside of the van.

A psychiatrist, whose name was not disclosed to the inquest, said Baigrie was suffering a psychopathic personality disorder.

Earlier Miss Helen Baigrie, the dead man's sister told the inquest that her brother had never at any time shown suicidal tendencies and that she did not believe he would kill himself.



James Baigrie

Bonus offer to benefits claimants

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

A special cash inducement may be offered to Britain's 19 million social security benefit claimants in return for having their payments made direct into bank accounts.

The idea, now being actively considered by the DHSS, follows the reluctance of claimants - especially pensioners - to have benefits automatically credited which is preventing the saving of millions of pounds in administrative costs.

Sir Geoffrey Orton, Second Permanent Secretary at the DHSS, told the Commons Public Accounts Committee last night the "surprising resistance" to bank payments was the main reason why savings of only £15.5 million would be achieved in delivering benefits by 1987-8, compared to Government forecast of £32 million.

"All the implications are that to improve the take-up of direct payments to banks will probably need some inducement."

It was clear that payment by automatic credit transfer to banks was the cheapest way of distributing benefits, but in spite of encouragement and persuasion, the extent of resistance was surprising. Only 10 per cent of mobility allowance claimants given the chance, had accepted direct bank payments. Of 60 per cent of pensioners invited to consider automatic transfer, only 2 per cent had accepted.

After a Rayner scrutiny in 1979, which said savings of £50 million could be achieved in administrative costs, the Government reduced the target to £32 million, achievable by reduced frequency of payments, bank payments and streamlined procedures.

Police in car theft inquiry praised

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

A team of Scotland Yard detectives were commended at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for investigating a national network of car thieves who operated from Merseyside to London and from Scotland to the south coast.

Judge Argyle, QC, praised the work of Det. Insp Brian Tuckwood and other officers from Scotland Yard's stolen car squad as seven defendants received sentences of up to 30 months for their part in the ring. The ring used stolen cars, mainly Fords, taken from Liverpool hire firms. Police traced more than 30 cars worth a total of up to £200,000.

The detectives stumbled on the ring in 1983 when they were given information that a Hertfordshire garage operator had a wreck in his yard with the same registration as a car in his fleet. Police then found other cars parked in car parks round

London and three were discovered to be stolen.

The operation uncovered by police worked on the basis of cars being hired by drivers using stolen licences, borrowed licences or even their own. When challenged later the hirers would say they had lost or had their licences stolen.

The stolen cars, usually late model Fords with low mileages, would be driven south. They would be matched against log books for used Fords which had been stolen in Liverpool and then registered with the numbers in the books before being sold.

In June 1983 a series of police raids up and down the country were centrally organized by the Yard team and at 6 am on June 22 the police struck. Twenty four people were arrested and 12 cars recovered in the operation codenamed Hummingbird.

By Biddy Passmore and Lucy Hodges

Almost 90 per cent of the 121 university courses in electrical and electronic engineering now demand A-level grades of one B and two Cs, or better, according to *Degree Course Offers*, the annual guide to winning a place at university.

It was not surprising, therefore, that there was a 5.5 per cent drop last year in applications to study engineering and technology. Mr Brian Heap, who produces the guide, said when it was released yesterday earlier than usual, because of the scramble for university places.

Mr Heap was particularly worried about the plight of sixth-formers wanting to study medicine. He cited, as an example, the case of an Asian boy with 10 O levels and grades A, B and C at A level, who had been rejected by five medical schools two years running.

"What are they looking for?" he asked. "It can't be bedside manner because some medical schools, such as Manchester, don't even interview applicants". The General Medical

Council should set a single exam for all applicants.

Mr Heap said that choosing a college at Oxford or Cambridge was "about as easy as choosing a Grand National winner with a pin, blindfold". Candidates should apply to single-sex colleges which tended to be less popular.

He added that getting into university was now so difficult in some subjects that sixth-formers were being frightened off. Schools and admissions tutors were becoming increas-

ingly concerned at the high quality of students being rejected.

After Oxford and Cambridge, Bristol and Durham are the hardest universities to get into, measured in terms of the grades they demand at A level. The other universities making the highest proportion of offers based on at least two Cs and one B are Bath; Birmingham; East Anglia; Leeds; Imperial College, London; Manchester; Nottingham; Southampton; Warwick and York.

Mr Brian Heap has been producing his annual guide to getting into university every year for the past 16 years, and *Degree Course Offers* is now required reading for careers teachers and aspiring university entrants.

Based on questionnaires completed by all universities, polytechnics and colleges, it details the A-level grades required for entry to courses at each institution. It also shows whether a university requires candidates to place them high or low on the application form; the number of places and

applicants for each course; and how the university reacts to the A-level grades actually achieved. Once the scourge of the university world, Mr Heap is now a national institution. He began his research in the 1960s when universities would not give details about the A-level grades they required.

Mr Heap is careers master at Hutton Grammar School in Preston, Lancashire, and produces his guide, together with *Professional and Vocational Degree Course Offers*, in his spare time.

Sixteen old people die in 'flu-like outbreak

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Sixteen elderly people have died from pneumonia after a flu-like illness that has affected the Stafford and Cannock area over the past 11 days.

Of 74 other patients admitted with severe respiratory trouble after the infection, nine are in intensive care. Three hospitals in Stafford have been treating the cases.

Doctors were taken by surprise because at this time of year the incidence of influenza normally falls.

Microbiologists from the Centre for Communicable Disease at Colindale, north London, are investigating the

source. Specialists at the Mid-Staffordshire District Health Authority suspect a virulent new strain of Type B Influenza virus as the infectious agent.

Admission of large numbers for broncho-pneumonia complications is unusual. There is an occasional risk of an outbreak of flu among patients already in hospital for other reasons.

The outbreak is also surprising because this year's incidence of influenza over the winter is well below the figure for the epidemic of 1976-77, when more than 540 out of every 100,000 people were infected.

Spain given clearance on holidays

Spanish holidays were given a cautious all-clear yesterday despite threats from the Basque separatist organization, ETA, that tourist resorts could be the target for terrorist attacks.

The Association of British Travel Agents said, after consulting the Foreign Office, that holidaymakers booked to Spain would not be switched to other destinations. An ABTA spokesman said: "We are not discouraging anyone from going to Spain for a holiday."

A spokesman for the Foreign Office added: "We are not encouraging people not to travel to Spain."

Neither spokesman could guarantee there would be no attacks - much as they wished to allay fears for the three million British holidaymakers expected in Spain this year.

Neither spokesman could guarantee there would be no attacks - much as they wished to allay fears for the three million British holidaymakers expected in Spain this year.

Murder charge committal opens

Committal proceedings began at Lambeth Magistrates Court, south-east London, yesterday against Mr Kenneth Noye, aged 37, a company director, his wife Brenda, aged 35, of West Kingsdown, Kent, and Mr Brian Reader, aged 45, of Grove Park, south-east London, who are jointly accused of murdering Det. Con John Fordham, aged 45, of Scotland Yard, in the grounds of the Noyes' home in January.

The men also face a charge of conspiring together to handle stolen bullion. Mr Reader is also accused of receiving £66,000 cash knowing or believing it to have been stolen.

The men also face a charge of conspiring together to handle stolen bullion. Mr Reader is also accused of receiving £66,000 cash knowing or believing it to have been stolen.

£600,000 appeal for cathed ral

A public appeal has been launched to raise £600,000 to pay for vital repairs to the copper roof of Coventry cathedral. Only 23 years after the building was consecrated, parts of the roof above the sanctuary have deteriorated to such an extent that it leaks.

The Rev Colin Semper, the cathedral's provost, who is undertaking a feasibility study on an appeal, yesterday said: "You can stand reading morning prayers and if the wind and rain are in a certain direction, it will drip on you."

Simpler fare structure introduced by BR

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

British Rail is to scrap its complicated fares structure next month in favour of a simple, peak and off-peak system for all journeys.

From May 12 there will be just two basic second-class fares operating throughout the system or full fare, which pays for travel on any train, peak or off-peak; and saver offering a substantial discount for journeys outside the morning and evening peaks.

For shorter journeys in the London and South-east commuter area there is also the cheap day return, offering similar discounts. Railcard holders will enjoy a 34 per cent

discount off standard and saver fares, and 50 per cent off cheap day returns.

Explaining the new system at Rail House in London yesterday, Mr Ivor Warburton, British Rail's director of passenger marketing services, admitted that the existing system, with up to a score of different fares between two destinations, had caused a lot of confusion.

The new system, to be heralded by a television advertising campaign, starting today would be easier for both customers and staff to understand, he said, and would add about 4 per cent to off-peak Inter-City travel, if all went well.



Miss Debbie Moore, aged 36, head of the Pineapple Dance Studios, who agreed in the High Court yesterday to pay £9,000 to Century Publishing to settle a dispute over the writing of *The Pineapple Dance Book* which was published by Pavilion.

Anti-static straps 'useless'

Anti-static straps which, it was claimed, helped to prevent car travel sickness, eliminate shocks and cut out radio crackle, were "useless bits of plastic", magistrates were told yesterday.

Tonks, Auto-Products, of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, distributors of the Italian-made hanging strap, were fined £450 with £500 costs at Warwick after admitting a breach of the Trade Descriptions Act.

The court heard that the straps were sold under the trade name Tonks and Halfords. But they were absolutely useless, Mr Lawrence Messing, for the prosecution, said.

Anthony Mason, the managing director of Daventry, Northamptonshire, told the court he had supplied the RAF with his straps for use on vehicles in the Falklands, and had never had complaints from them.

Warwickshire's trading standards officer, Mr Noel Hunter, said later: "An ordinary car tyre is 10 million times more effective than the straps at conducting static electricity to earth."

Almost any material dangling from a car would be as effective as the straps, which were sold at between £1.50 and £2, Mr Hunter added.

Mr Julian Roche, for the defence said Mr Mason designed the packaging, which included the claim that it conducted static electricity. The straps were distributed in 60 counties and they had never had any complaints.

"When Mr Mason realized that the claims made were doubtful, he advised his staff not to distribute any more, and recalled 6,000 from Halfords."

● The claims made for "anti-static" straps over the years have ranged from a cure for car sickness to better radio reception, increased road safety and a deterrent to chugging dogs (Our Motoring Correspondent writes).

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Coal production at encouraging level

COAL INDUSTRY

The figures for production at pits throughout the country following the coal industry dispute were very encouraging, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said during long exchanges in the Commons about the aftermath of the strike. He was replying to Mr Ian Wigglesworth (Skegby, North, SDP) who had asked him to discuss with Mr Ian MacGregor, Chairman of the NCB, the management of the board now that the strike was over.

At the end of the exchanges, Mr Walker denied an allegation by Mr Stanley Orme, the Labour spokesman on energy, that the coal board was conducting a vendetta against certain people.

Mr Walker said 1985-86 would be a year of reconstruction following the damage done both to the mines and to markets by the strike. To secure its long-term future, the industry would need to make progress in bringing down the average costs of production.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline, West, Lab) when he next meets Mr MacGregor will be questioning why, while running a decentralized operation, the anomalies in the treatment of people are so great as between one area and another and get him to explain why miners in Scotland are dismissed because of activities outside the dispute and are not being treated in the same way as those in the rest of the country.

Mr Walker: I shall convey Mr MacGregor's views. Nobody has made a complaint about this before. I shall look at it and see if there is a reason for it.

Mr Walker: Mr MacGregor meets his regional leaders frequently, has discussions with them and there is a constant exchange of views between them.

It is true that there has been greater examination of dismissals in Scotland than in any other part of the country and there was a time when other regions complained that there were actions there more quickly than in Scotland where cases were carefully looked into.

Sir Dudley Smith (Warwick and Leamington, CP) will the minister ensure that plans for the vast new South Warwickshire coalfield are the subject of the widest possible local consultation and that there is a full explanation of the coal board case?

Mr Walker: I am sure there will be.

Mr Roy Mason (Barnsley, Central, Lab) In a large part of the Yorkshire coalfields, industry relations are at rock bottom and rotten.

Over the past 20 years, by custom and practice and general agreement, the coal union branch secretary has been allowed three days at the surface to look after miners' widows, pensioners and disabled miners as well as doing trade union work. The agreement has stopped it and is making the secretary work five days underground.

Apart from sour and bitter relations, the persons who need their services most are those who are denied them by the board and the impression is that it is on the part of the chairman of the board. Will Mr Walker raise that with Mr MacGregor?

Mr Walker: I shall convey Mr Mason's views. Nobody has made a complaint about this before. I shall look at it and see if there is a reason for it.

Mr Walker: Mr MacGregor meets his regional leaders frequently, has discussions with them and there is a constant exchange of views between them.

resources are provided for coal conversion schemes.

Mr Walker: Applications are returning but success depends on the degree to which industry can be confirmed in its view that there will be security of supply.

Mr David Ashby (North-West, Leicestershire, CP) There should be more capital investment in the Midlands where industrial relations are good and where the workforce works far more effectively and is up by the courts and if someone is dismissed, he has considerable rights against wrongful dismissal.

Mr Anthony Farrell (Skegby, North, SDP) Is the minister satisfied that proper steps have been taken by the coal board to safeguard miners who worked through the strike against harassment by their colleagues?

Mr Walker: Yes. The NCB has been firm against harassment and any evidence of it has brought swift and decisive action.

Mr Peter Baines (Leicester, East, CP) What steps are being taken to protect workers who are still being harassed and intimidated and need the support of this country?

Mr Walker: I have personally been given a number of individual cases and I conveyed those immediately to the coal board. The cases I have looked into they have dealt with effectively. That is their intention.

Mr Allen McKay (Barnsley, West, SDP) Will he ask the chairman to expedite the work of the new review body to review before and not after closures?

Mr Walker: A meeting on this is taking place tomorrow (Tuesday). I hope that quick progress will be made. At a number of pits, people have taken voluntary redundancy. It was the majority view of miners that that was required and not the coal board laying down policy.

Mr Peter Hardy (Wentworth, Lab) Will the minister be asking the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfirs' Association (NACOS) agreement will be signed and operated from tomorrow (Tuesday) may I say that if the NCB want to remove the disgust and suspicion, that step would be the most useful that could be taken.

Mr Walker: I cannot say what everyone will be demanding. There are other delegates there besides those from NACOS. I hope that it will be recognized that a number of the decisions made are not by the coal board against the interests of the miners, but by the miners on a consensus view of the miners.

Mr Stanley Orme, Chief Opposition spokesman on energy: If the NACOS agreement had been fully implemented, there would have been no need for a ballot to decide whether to take industrial action.

Would he ask the chairman of the coal board to explain why there are wide discrepancies between different areas about reinstatement, particularly in Scotland and South Wales? Why is the coal board carrying out a vendetta against certain people?

Mr Walker: There is no truth or substance in that allegation. I have no evidence of it. If I had, I would take action. There is no evidence of it.

● The coal industry faced a considerable task ahead and could do nothing better than show that productivity was improving and that supplies were reliable and consistent. Mr Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said during other exchanges.

Mrs Ann Cleyd (Cynon Valley, Lab) The prospects for reconciliation in South Wales would be greatly enhanced if the five men sacked from the Phosphate Works, apparently at the instigation of Mr MacGregor, were reinstated at the one working miner were reinstated forthwith.

Mr Walker: Obviously any decision must be taken by management.



Ashby: Investment needed in Midlands

more reliable than in almost any other area.

Mr Walker: The coal board has a range of potentialities for investment but where there is high productivity is where there will be investment.

Mr Walker: I shall convey Mr Mason's views. Nobody has made a complaint about this before. I shall look at it and see if there is a reason for it.

Mr Walker: Mr MacGregor meets his regional leaders frequently, has discussions with them and there is a constant exchange of views between them.

Peers reject call for inquiry after passing of abolition Bill

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

It was strange and unique to ask for an inquiry during the passage of a Bill, but the Local Government Bill was itself strange and unique. Lord Birk (Lab) said in the House of Lords when moving the first of 142 amendments on the order paper to be considered during the 11-day committee stage.

The amendment, she said, would set up a committee of inquiry a month after the Bill came into effect, to consider the best means of securing the future provision of services currently undertaken by the GLC and the Metropolitan county councils. It would report to the Secretary of State for the Environment no later than February 1 1986.

It had never been known in recent times for a major reorganization to be undertaken, she said, without first being an inquiry into the reasons for the change. The royal commission, instead, the Government had chosen to ignore the doubts and criticisms that had been expressed from professional, academic and political circles and from industry and commerce.

The House developed its procedure by convention. It had developed a clear convention, acceptable on both sides, that it did not vote against Bills which received a second reading in the Commons.

That convention applied whether or not that second reading was preceded by, and therefore to a tiny extent supported by, a previous statement in the party's manifesto.

It was necessary to consider whether this was a wrecking amendment, began with the words: "Not later than one month

that had been given to the Bill there could be no impartial left who could sit on it.

Lord McIntosh of Harrogate (Lab) said even after the passing of the Bill there would remain matters to be resolved. The amendment was simply to redress deficiencies in the thinking process that the Government had gone through.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said if an inquiry came forward with suggested improvements it was inevitable the Opposition would use every legal parliamentary means to see they were implemented. That could only mean delay, possibly of a year, and the amendment was an exercise designed to waste time. It was an ingenious device, perhaps not quite ingenious enough.

A spokesman for the Rt Rev David Sheppard, said the Bill was something of a blunderbuss. It fired at a target but hit many people at whom it had never meant to be aimed.

An inquiry would make it possible for the Government to understand better some of the issues as they emerged in planning the takeover. There was some ground which had not yet been trodden.

There were genuine fears about the future of the voluntary bodies and it was perhaps time for a new deal between the state and the voluntary movement.

The aim of this Bill (he said) needs to be sharper than its hopeful wishes about joint boards, that is, when it comes to the name of the amendment. It is difficult to see how the proposals would promote a more efficient and less costly delivery of services.

The joint boards (he continued) and the joint committees, the voluntary joint arrangements, the residual bodies and the greater Civil Service involvement in planning to the public and likely to give rise to more conflict, more tension and more bureaucratic delay.

The Earl of Gower, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Arts, said it might not be a wrecking amendment but if it was not it did not seem to be an amendment of very great substance. They were delayed with inquiries, debates, knowledge, information. It would seem a wholly redundant thing to do to go down this particular road again.

They were being urged to do so simply because the Government was opposed to the Government proposals and legislation believed it would help them in their campaign. The Government had consulted widely and already had a modified bill before the legislative process some of its original propositions.

The amendment was rejected by 196 votes to 137, Government majority 59.

Walker tells Europe 'We know best'

The Government had as yet received no proposals from the EEC Commission on the phasing out of all subsidies to the coal industry, Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, said during Commons exchanges in reply to Mr Peter Wainwright's question about such plans.

With the proposals of the French government (he said) to substantially reduce the coal industry in France, there are only two countries in Europe which will have a major coal industry, and we both have a range of different opportunities and different problems. Whatever the Commission does, it must understand we know best how to tackle these problems. (Cheers)

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) I have seen this document. If these proposals were implemented, they would represent an extremely serious threat to the future of our coal industry. Estimates have been made that 150,000 to 200,000 jobs in Europe would be lost as a consequence of implementation.

What are his views on the matter? Has he had any consultations on it and if not when is he proposing to have them?

Mr Walker: I had a discussion this (Monday) morning with the Commissioner responsible for energy (Mr Ne Moser). It was arranged some time ago. He assures me there is no definite proposal by the Commission yet and he very much wanted to hear our views.

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on energy, we welcome what the Secretary of State said and hope he will keep the House fully informed as to developments and report on any discussions he may have with the Commissioner and with the EEC.

When I was in the Nottingham coalfield last week great concern was expressed about these proposals. I think this needs to be allayed.

Mr Walker: Certainly. No proposals have been received by the Government. I had a useful discussion with the Commissioner this morning and what will be discussed at this stage will be discussed at the Council of Ministers on June 20.

The reality is that there are two countries with major coal interests and these interests must be looked after.

New enforcement powers strike right balance

FINANCE BILL

The Government proposed to revise Customs and Excise powers over VAT control and investigation work and bring in more safeguards for taxpayers. Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, explained in the Commons when he moved the second reading of the Finance Bill, which enacts this year's Budget measures.

He said the Bill would introduce a civil offence code for compliance failures and less serious frauds in place of the present criminal sanctions.

The proposals, which derived from the Keith Committee inquiry into the enforcement powers of the Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue, struck a fair balance between the interests of taxpayer and Government, he added.

If this package commands itself to the House, the next step then we expect it will halve the amount of VAT outstanding, perhaps over £1 billion; produce an increased revenue flow of £20 million a year; result in a once-and-for-all increase in the revenue fund amount to £600 million by 1988-89; and produce an annual revenue for surcharge, interest and penalties amounting to £150 million.

He said the Government was not convinced that the withdrawal of capital allowances next year would lead to a dip in investment. But it had thought again about the case for modifying these arrangements for assets with a short life.

A change was proposed in the Bill to give businesses the option of keeping investments expected to depreciate rapidly because of technological obsolescence out of the main capital allowance pool. If they were then disposed of at less than their written down value within five years, a balancing allowance would be given.

This measure (he added) will I hope be particularly useful to high technology businesses whose capital stock is subject to rapid obsolescence.

On representations made to him about VAT on newspaper advertising, he said the Government had been given an assurance that this was an anomaly. Local radio was charged VAT and many European countries imposed VAT on newspapers. The yield from the full year would amount to £50 million.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on treasury and economic affairs, said this would

cause a problem for a small family wanting to advertise births, deaths and marriages.

Mr Rees said he wondered if the Government were really going to make a large or important part of the family budget.

The tax and national insurance contribution cuts for the self-employed would cost £153 million in a full year but stressed the Government's continuing concern for the self-employed who represented over 10 per cent of the workforce.

Interest rates would remain at the levels which were judged necessary to achieve the right monetary conditions. This did not represent a break with previous policies.

On the subject of the Finance Bill, he hoped MPs would recognize that it had many points of interest and even imagination. As they studied the main points, he hoped they would see the benefits of measures which carried forward the theme of tax reform and simplifications started last year and the range of measures designed to promote job creation.

Development land tax would be the third tax the Government had abolished in two years. It was the least cost effective tax and its abolition would remove 200 pages of complex legislation from the statute book. He also hoped it would bring more development land onto the market and help the construction industry.

The Bill might not dazzle but it should alarm. He hoped it would reassure the country that its financial affairs were in firm and competent hands.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, moved an Opposition motion designed to give the Bill a second reading because of the UK economy and increased the burden of taxation without providing adequate relief.

He said the Budget was the most unpopular since the war according to the evidence of the polls. The Bill stood for no change in a strategy which had produced record unemployment, record real interest rates and a general debilitation of the economy.

The Bill did not even acknowledge the need to reduce unemployment and it compounded the fraud of which the Government had been guilty for six years - promising tax cuts while increasing the annual tax bill.

Changing procedure for future secondments

CIVIL SERVICE

The appointment of Mr Peter Levene as Chief of Defence Procurement was raised again in the Commons when Dr Oonagh McDonald, an Opposition spokesman, sought an assurance that in future all Civil Service appointments would be based on open competition and not on political patronage.

During questions to Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for the Civil Service, Dr McDonald said appointments from outside the Civil Service in temporary posts such as that of Mr Levene, had drawn an unprecedented structure from the Civil Service Commission.

The Commission (he said) points out that established procedures were set aside in that appointment.

Will Mr Hayhoe give a firm commitment that all appointments from both within and outside the Civil Service in future will be based on open competition and not on political patronage of any kind?

Mr Hayhoe: The principle of fair and open competition for Civil Service appointments is a very important one which has been maintained over the years and must continue to be maintained.

The suggestion that in some way the procedures followed in the case of Mr Levene were wrong in an unfortunate fashion, I think is misplaced.

On secondments, it has been the long-standing practice of successive administrations not to believe that a qualification certificate from the

Civil Service Commissioners was required.

It was only at the time of Mr Levene's appointment that legal advice came forward saying that such certificates were required. The Government, as the Prime Minister has made clear, immediately took steps to regularize the position.

Mr Levene was not in the event seconded but appointed under a five-year contract not exceeding five years. The proper procedures were followed as far as he was then concerned.

● Mr Gordon Brown (Dunfermline, Lab) asked the Prime Minister when she expected to announce new regulations for the secondment of businessmen to the Civil Service.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, in a written reply, said: The Civil Service Commissioners are considering with their legal advisers new procedures to ensure that future appointments on secondment are made in compliance with the Civil Service Order in Council 1982.

These procedures will be introduced as soon as it is possible to do so. Until then it is important that departments are still able to arrange new secondments.

All such proposals are being referred to the Commissioners and it is very important on an individual basis against the background of the provisions and discretionary powers contained in the Order in Council.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Involuntary Bill, Government Bill, committee, second day.

Ulster voters urged to check cards

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was in the Province this afternoon, reviewing issues involved in personation in elections. Dr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in the Commons.

Answering a private notice question from Mr Enoch Powell (South Down OUP) he said Mr Hurd was aware of the understandable concern of Northern Ireland MPs and others about the matter.

Dr Hattersley said some electors held a medical card issued before September 30, 1973, by the Northern Ireland General Health Service. Some of these electors had been guilty for six years - promising tax cuts while increasing the annual tax bill.

These people were wrong in believing that this card was among the specified documents any one of which, under new legislative provisions to counter the growth of personation, would enable them to obtain a ballot paper for elections.

Special arrangements had been made to ensure the anyone needing a medical card could get one quickly.

NHS 'being cheated'

PROCEDURE

An appeal by Mr Michael Mencher, chief Opposition spokesman on Health and Social Security, for an emergency Commons debate on private medicine abuses within the NHS as condemned by the Comptroller and Auditor General's report, was rejected by the Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill.

Mr Mencher said the matter was important because in the considered view of the Comptroller the NHS was being cheated, whether by negligence or fraud, of millions of pounds a year, at the same time as the Government was enforcing major cuts in other areas of the NHS.

The Government, which was clearly soft on private medicine, should be made to face up to the fact that abuses from private practice in the NHS were now at such a scale that they were becoming endemic.

The only effective answer to this continuing malpractice was the complete separation of the private sector outside the NHS. Immediate action was called for to uphold public standards by prosecuting those who were proven to have been involved in fraud, of millions of pounds a year, at the same time as the Government was enforcing major cuts in other areas of the NHS.

Does this not indicate (he asked) a prima facie case of gross abuse, asking the taxpayer to foot the bill for research for private companies?

Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons in chief, had a good deal of sympathy with the concern he shows about the increasing use of written questions which, adjusted to a single day basis, were 139 for the 1980-81 session and 188 for the current session, an increase of about 43 per cent.

His other comments took more upon the declaration of interest and he might refer to the corresponding select committee.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, CP) Another factor in this explosion of questions is the increase in research assistants. One MP has five research assistants at the time of the session provided by American universities.

Mr Biffen: The services committee has recently reported on this matter, and I hope the report will be available to the House fairly shortly.

Complacency in energy saving

There was the most incredible complacency about energy conservation, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said during Commons questions.

If that could be removed in domestic heating, lighting and commercially, he added, a great deal of progress could be made.

Energy Efficiency Year, in 1986, would carry forward the momentum and progress achieved in energy efficiency since the launch of the campaign 18 months ago. The year would serve as a focus to get everyone involved.

This was an area of enormous potential, and savings of the order of £7 billion could be made.

Too many questions in the House

PROCEDURE

The number of written questions tabled to MPs had doubled from 21,000 four years ago to 42,000 in the last session of Parliament. Mr William Hamilton (Fife Central, Lab) said in the Commons, adding that the cost of answering them was £1,680,000.

The system was being abused by outside bodies, he said, and two Conservative MPs, for instance, were in the way of drug companies and had tabled 70 written questions

Freedom pledged for police watchdog

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The appointment of a former police chief to advise the new Police Complaints Authority would not compromise its independence, Sir Cecil Clothier, its chairman, said yesterday.

He was answering criticism from the Police Federation, which represents ranks up to and including chief inspector. Its spokesman said that he was surprised to find that the former Deputy Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, Mr Frank Cuswell, was appointed as adviser. The authority was also looking for another officer to serve as its deputy.

"This baffles us" the federation spokesman said, "because ex-police officers are disqualified from serving as members of the authority to preserve its independence."

Sir Cecil said at a press conference held yesterday to launch the new authority, that Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, had agreed that it should have a technical adviser at its disposal so that "we won't be taken by surprise, have the wool pulled over our eyes" and not make unreasonable, unattainable demands on the police. An adviser gave advice that might or might not be taken.

The authority has extra powers to supervise the investigation of the most serious complaints against police officers. Sir Cecil, a former Health Service Commissioner, replied to the federation's belief that only a wholly independent system of investigation would satisfy all parties.

The way in which an investigation was done would be watched and directed under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act by an independent authority. It would be the authority's business to satisfy people by its performance.

Welcoming the new authority, Mr Brittan said he was certain it would, with such substantial powers, greatly enhance public confidence.

● Other police disciplinary changes came into force yesterday. Racially discriminatory behaviour has become a specific offence under the police discipline code, and there are new safeguards for police officers facing disciplinary proceedings, including a right to legal representation when facing serious punishment and wider rights to a tribunal hearing.



Answer time: Mrs Mila Mulrooney, the wife of the Canadian Prime Minister, as she answered children's questions during a visit to the Canada section of the Commonwealth Institute in London. Report page 6 (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Survey finds councils 'lax on race and housing'

By Pat Healy

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, is to be asked to approve a series of measures to end racial discrimination in housing policies after a survey disclosed that few councils are tackling the issue.

The survey, by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities after an official investigation on housing policies and practice in Hackney, east London, got responses from 61 of the 69 housing authorities in England and Wales.

Only 20 authorities kept any records of ethnic minorities approaching their housing departments, with another six considering doing so. Fewer authorities took any steps to monitor the allocation of their housing to ethnic minorities.

Mr John Mordecai, vice-chairman of the AMA housing committee, said at a press conference yesterday to launch the survey that there was considerable evidence to show that black families lived in the worst housing conditions.

The survey report recommends that all housing authorities should keep up-to-date records regularly reviewed to ensure that policies designed to be fair to black families are implemented. It also calls for more black staff to be recruited in housing departments; for better training in awareness for white staff; and for better records to be kept of racial harassment.

The proposals will be put to Mr Jenkin at the annual housing consultative council between the Department of Environment and local authority associations in June.

Court move in fight to save station

The Greater London Council and four London boroughs took their battle to save Marylebone station from closure to the High Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Kennedy is being asked to overturn the decision of the London Regional Passenger Committee not to allow British Rail and London Regional Transport witnesses at an inquiry into the closure to be cross-examined by objectors or to make submissions.

Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC, for the GLC and London boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Harrow and Hillingdon, told the judge that although they were under no obligation to do so the committee had decided to conduct the hearing in public, their refusal to allow cross-examination and submissions amounted to a breach of natural justice.

More than 900 objections to BR's plans to close the station and divert the line with the closure of four more stations, were received. The committee is gathering evidence to put before Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport.

The hearing continues today.

Plant pest curb aimed at imports

A campaign to publicize the risk to Britain's indigenous trees, shrubs, flowers and crops by contamination by illegal plant imports was launched yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture, John Young, Agriculture Correspondent, writes.

Posters are to be displayed at ports and airports warning travellers that plant material from abroad may harbour pests and diseases.

Dutch elm disease is taken as a prime example, but among other causes for concern are Colorado Beetle, which infests potato crops, phytophthora, which devastated European vineyards in the last century and which still recurs occasionally, American Serpentine leaf-miner and Egyptian cotton leaf-worm, both threats to glasshouse crops, gladiolus rust, gladiolus anthracnose, white rust, and North American apple maggot.

Last year Kew Gardens received 200 consignments from abroad representing 4,000 species from 43 countries of something wrong. But holiday-makers were responsible for importing much plant disease.

550 من الأصل

From Frank Johnson, Bonn-

Lufthansa

Three more hotels suffer hoax bomb calls in Spanish terror campaign

Spanish police rushed to three leading east coast hotels yesterday after telephone threats were made that bombs were due to go off during lunchtime at each of them.

They feared that ETA, the Basque armed separatist organization, might have begun the "sabotage campaign" an anonymous caller had threatened last Friday, but all three cases proved to be false alarms.

A caller had rung Radio Alicante yesterday morning claiming to speak for ETA's military wing and saying the bombs would go off about 1.45pm. Similar calls were later made to two Basque radio stations. The police searched the state-run paradors at Valencia and Javea, near Benidorm, and the Alicante Hotel of the private Melia chain, but found only one suspicious looking parcel. This was at the Alicante Hotel and was discovered to contain rubbish.

The Interior Ministry could not say whether Friday's call,

which started the latest scare, had been authenticated as being from the ETA.

In 1979 and again in 1980, the Basque terrorist organization staged attacks which seriously hit Spain's tourism seasons. In 1979 these culminated in seven deaths on one day after a rash of bombings at two Madrid main line railway stations, and many injuries at Madrid's Barajas airport.

Meanwhile Malaga's police chief announced yesterday that this summer's stepped-up measures designed to improve tourists' security and safety from local criminals had already gone into effect. They included, he said, more policemen, regular security checks and surveillance from police helicopters.

WIESBADEN: Left-wing terrorists may be planning spectacular attacks during this week's Bonn economic summit, according to West Germany's federal criminal office here (AP reports).

French breakthrough on Nato blasts

Brussels (Reuters) - French police appear to have made a vital breakthrough in an investigation into a recent series of attacks on Nato targets in France, Belgium and West Germany, sources involved in the inquiry said yesterday.

They said a Turk, who was

carrying stolen Belgian explosives when arrested last week at a Paris railway station on arrival from Brussels, could be a key link between three urban guerrilla groups responsible for the wave of bombings.

French police said Muzaffar Cacar, aged 26, was carrying

four sticks of dynamite stolen from a quarry at Ecaussines, south of Brussels. He also had four detonators and false Belgian identity.

About 1,800 pounds of commercial explosives, detonators and fuse wire were stolen at Ecaussines on June 23,

Rats and monkeys blast off in shuttle

From Mohsin Ali Washington

The space shuttle Challenger blasted off from Cape Canaveral yesterday on a seven day scientific mission carrying seven astronauts, a pair of squirrel monkeys and 24 rats.

This seventeenth shuttle mission marks the first operational flight for the \$1 billion European Space Agency-developed space laboratory.

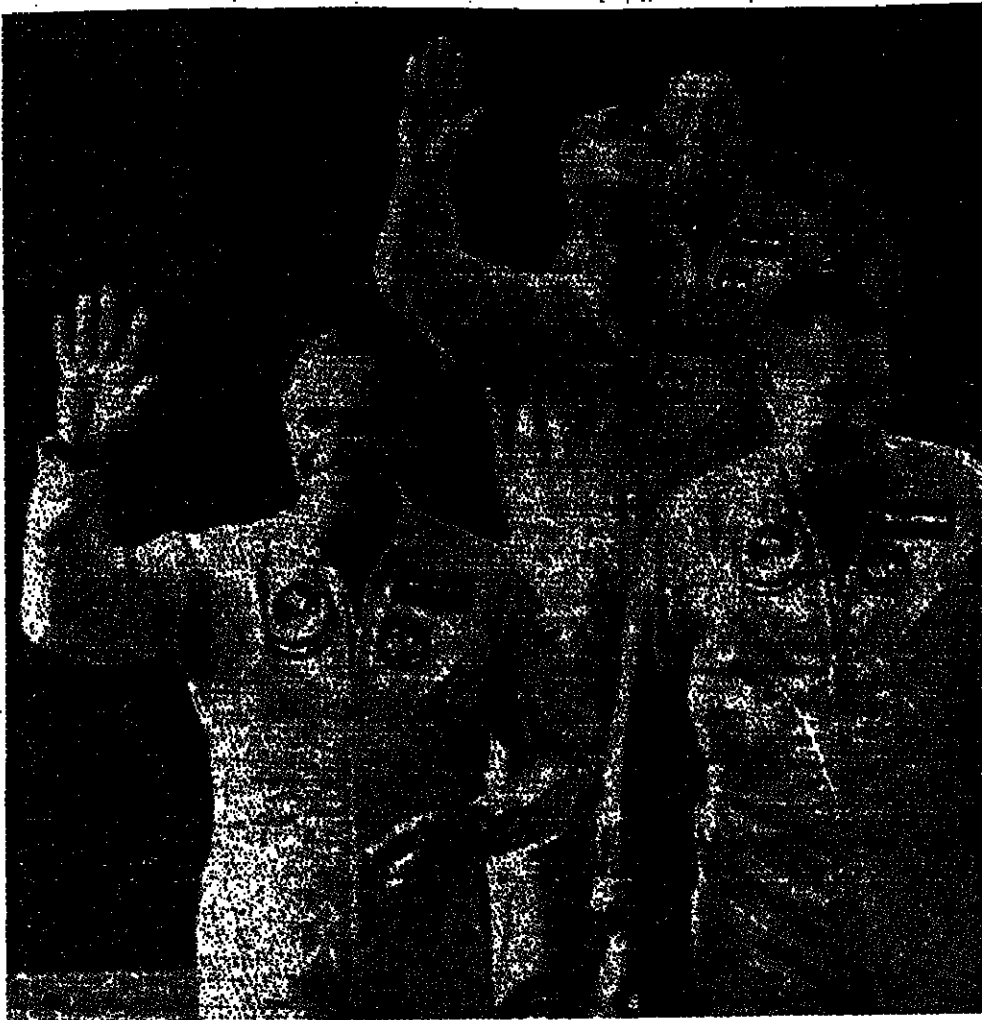
The European-built spacelab is a 12-ton, barrel-shaped laboratory, 23ft long and 13ft in diameter. Fifteen experiments will be conducted during the spacelab 3 mission, ranging from crystal growing to astronomy.

A main objective is to provide a high quality microgravity environment for delicate materials processing and fluid experiments.

Animals are on the shuttle for the first time. The 2lb monkeys will be closely monitored for feeding habits and behavioural changes. Four of the rats face a less pleasant fate. They have been wired with surgically implanted sensors to study the effect of space sickness.

After the flight the rodents are to be dissected for research into how weightlessness affects their physiology. This has brought protests from animal welfare activists. The squirrel monkeys will be spared.

For the second time in the history of the US space programme, astronauts will



Farewell to Earth: Pilot Frederick Gregory (left) and Commander Robert Overmyer leading the crew out to the shuttle in Cape Canaveral yesterday.

alternate on 12-hour work shifts, operating research projects around the clock.

One of the mission's five scientists is Dr Taylor Wang, aged 44, the first Chinese-American to fly on board the space shuttle. He was born in Shanghai, studied physics in

the United States and was selected for the space programme two years ago.

Another is Dr Lodewijk van den Berg, aged 53, who was born in The Netherlands and is a US citizen. He is an international authority on vapour growth techniques with

emphasis on mercuric iodide crystals and its application on the nuclear industry as gamma ray detectors.

For the first time the shuttle has a black American pilot. Air Force Colonel Frederick Gregory, aged 44.

Top Swiss school destroyed by fire

Crans, Switzerland (AFP) - Les Roches, an exclusive boarding school here, has been burnt down. The pupils, 50 teenagers from some of the world's wealthiest families, and the teachers escaped.

At Bluche, a fire of unknown origin swept through an international hotel management school forcing 100 students in their nightclothes to flee.

Sherpa claims Everest record

Katmandu (Reuters) - Four Norwegians and four Nepalese Sherpas scaled Everest yesterday, with one of the Sherpas reaching the top for a fourth time.

Nepal's Tourism Ministry said it was a record for Sundare Sherpa, aged 32, a professional climber, who first climbed the 29,000ft peak in October 1979. He did it again in 1981 and 1982.

Gang raid on hospital bank

Rome (Reuters) - Four armed bandits who police said could have been urban guerrillas were foiled in an attempt to rob a bank branch in the Bambino Gesù children's hospital here. Three security guards were wounded in a gun battle.

The Princess of Wales visited the hospital on Friday.

Off the wagon

Helsinki (Reuters) - A strike by the sales staff of Finland's state-owned liquor monopoly Alko ended yesterday with the signing of a 7 per cent pay deal. Sales outlets reopened in time for the traditionally hard-drinking May festivities.

Gibraltar links

Official talks over restoring air links between Gibraltar and Spain were held in London yesterday. The next session will probably be held in Madrid next month.

Treaty date

Luxembourg (Reuters) - European Community foreign ministers set June 12 as the date for signing the treaties for the accession of Spain and Portugal, due to join the bloc on January 1, diplomats said.

Drugs seized

Cadiz (AP) - Spanish police arrested 14 Colombian crew members of the Panamanian-registered ship the Lady K after finding 30 tonnes of marijuana and 110lb of cocaine on board. Authorities said it was the single largest drug seizure to date in Spain.

Nigeria curfew

Bauchi (Reuters) - A shoot-on-sight curfew has been imposed in the north-eastern Nigeria town of Gombe where at least 100 people have died in two days of bloody religious rioting.

Missionary dies

Nairobi (AP) - A Swedish missionary identified as Assar Johansson, aged 38, was shot dead by a gang that broke into his home in south-western Kenya, the Swedish Embassy said yesterday.

Ortega has aid pledge from Russia

Moscow (AP) - The Nicaraguan President, Señor Daniel Ortega, met the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday and the two expressed support for a negotiated settlement of central American tensions which they blame on the United States.

Nicaragua also signed an agreement with the Soviet Union to set up a commission to coordinate joint economic, scientific technological programmes, the official news agency Tass said without giving details.

Tass quoted Mr Gorbachev as saying the Soviet Union will aid Nicaragua in "resolving urgent problems of economic development, and political and diplomatic support in its efforts to uphold its sovereignty". There was no mention of military aid.

Señor Ortega was said by officials in his country to be seeking \$200 million in cash from Moscow to counter economic sanctions imposed by the United States in 1981. The Tass report did not indicate that any new grants or loans were arranged.

The Sandinista Government has said the need for aid is now urgent because of expected additional sanctions by the Reagan Administration in the wake of Congress' vote to cut all aid to anti-Sandinista rebels.

MANAGUA: The Nicaraguan Minister of Defence, Señor Humberto Ortega, has accused the Reagan Administration of providing anti-Sandinista rebels with advanced surface-to-air missiles (AP reports).

Political commando blows up Argentine transmitter

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

An unidentified commando group bombed a Buenos Aires radio station's transmitter in a pre-dawn raid yesterday. The attack marked the first serious outbreak of political violence here since the public trial against nine former military leaders opened a week ago.

The staff of Radio Belgrano, an independent, state-owned station that has earned a large following for its iconoclastic, left-wing voice, said 10 armed men with stockpiles over their faces burst into the radio's broadcasting plant, overpowered two guards, and placed bombs which totally destroyed the radio's transmitting equipment. No one was injured.

Police said pamphlets left at the scene indicated it was the work of a right-wing political commando, but no organization had claimed responsibility by yesterday afternoon.

Radio Belgrano's studios, in a different building, were not attacked.

Listeners, who last year formed a co-operative to keep the station going when the government trimmed its funding, were planning a demonstration last night. President Raul Alfonsín ordered the trial of nine former members of military juntas that ruled the country after a 1976 coup on charges of human rights violations.

Editors resign over post for politician

Paris (Reuters) - Thirteen senior journalists, including the co-editors-in-chief, have resigned from the French left wing daily newspaper *Le Matin* following the appointment of the former government spokesman M. Max Gallo as chief editorial writer.

In a statement published in *Le Matin* yesterday the journalists said the appointment would jeopardize the paper's independence.

Opposition parties have said M. Gallo's Arrival was an attempt by the Socialist Government to use *Le Matin* as an electoral tool ahead of parliamentary elections.

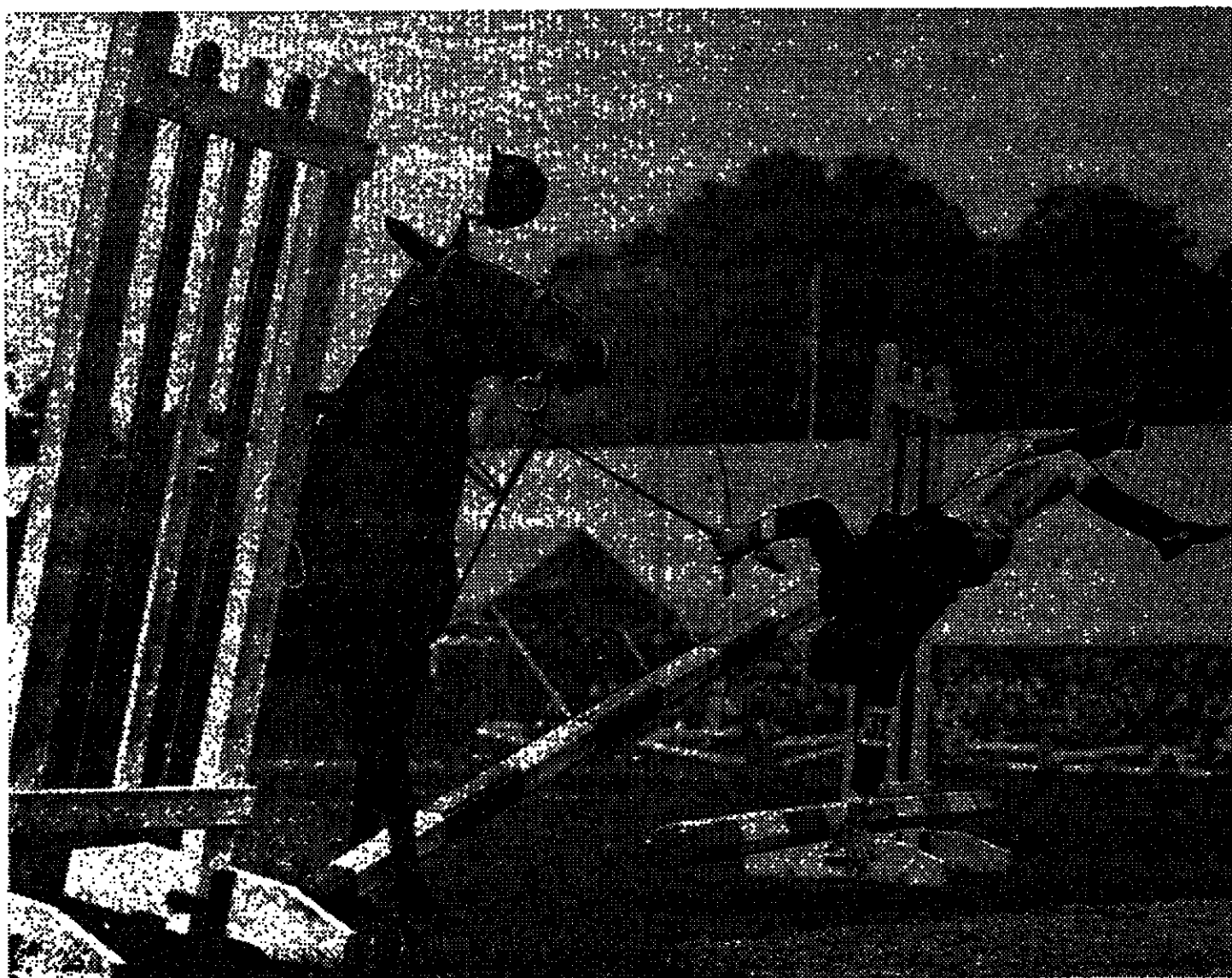
M. Gallo and *Le Matin*'s main owner, the left wing businessman M. Max Theret, have denied the move threatens editorial independence.

Baby contracts Aids from donor's blood

Brisbane (Reuters) - A 16-month baby and a man have contracted the killer disease Aids from contaminated blood here, the Queensland state health Minister, Mr Brian Austin, said yesterday. An investigation was underway to track down the source of the blood given to the two victims.

Four Queensland babies died late last year after they received blood donated by an Aids carrier, prompting a national outcry about the disease and the country's blood donor system.

Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) destroys the body's defences against infection. It can be transmitted by transfusions of contaminated blood and by sexual contact. Kits to test blood for the Aids anti-body are being distributed across the country.



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USUAL SIGNATURE: _____

(If child under 7, signature of person opening account. Withdrawals are not normally allowed until child is aged 7.)

Please give number(s) of any other NSB Investment Account(s): _____

مكتبة من الأصل

More miners go as 17,000 dismissal toll makes history

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The number of black gold-miners dismissed after stoppages and disruption at two South African mining houses rose to 17,000 yesterday, the highest mass dismissal in mining history.

Most of the trouble was at Vaal Reef, the biggest gold mine in the world, where 14,000 miners were dismissed. A spokesman for the Anglo-American Corporation, the mine's owner, said that 11,000 men had already left and the rest were in the process of going.

The company is sending them back in a fleet of buses to various tribal "homelands" in South Africa and to Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique. Under South African law all but a small percentage of the more than 400,000 black goldminers live as migrants without their families on the mine compounds.

Anglo contends that the men had breached the terms of their contracts by engaging in illegal go-slows and stoppages over a period of five weeks and had ignored repeated requests to return to normal working.

The National Union of Mineworkers, the biggest black trade union in the mines, says the stoppages were provoked by a decision to grant a "selective" 10 per cent rise to a small category of miners earlier this year, and also by the unfair dismissal of a number of shaft stewards.

The stoppages at Vaal Reef, which last year produced 83 tons of gold, has so far caused the loss of a ton of the metal, worth about \$8 million.

The number of miners dismissed at the nearby Harbourside mine of Anglovaal, another mining house, is now put at 3,000. Under South African law, a lengthy conciliation procedure has to be exhausted before a strike can be called legally.

Talks were being held yesterday between both mining houses and the union's general secretary. It was thought that some of those dismissed might be re-engaged as a result.

Meanwhile, in continuing unrest in the Eastern Cape, a black policeman was strangled and set alight, and four black civilians were killed, police said.

The charred body of a black woman was found in the rubble of a burnt-out house in the New Brighton black township, outside Port Elizabeth. Three other blacks died elsewhere in clashes with the police.

● DUBBAN: Bomb disposal experts de-activated a packet bomb found in a rubbish bin in a children's park which thousands of commuters use as a short cut (AFP reports).



Victory parade: Strutting Vietnamese troops practice in Ho Chi Minh City for the parade marking the tenth anniversary of the fall of the Saigon regime.

Resistance to Pacific atom base

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, yesterday predicted that south Pacific countries will fight France's plans to establish a nuclear military base in politically troubled New Caledonia.

Such a decision by the French would constitute a setback for Mr Lange's campaign to prevent military build-ups in the region. The Prime Minister said the idea was totally unacceptable. "If the report is true it is further indication that France has this unique quality of misjudging how welcome it is in our part of the world", he said.

"It has, against world and certainly south Pacific opinion, been detonating nuclear weapons in this part of the world for too long, and the idea that it can now escalate its unwelcome presence in New Caledonia by entrenching it with a whole military complex shows that there is something absolutely sublimely bad in its judgements of our interests and of French interests in the south Pacific."

Mitterrand heads for Bonn summit clash

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Only a few days before the summit of the seven industrialized nations in Bonn, France has taken a firm stand on two key topics - Star Wars and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Its stand is likely to put it into conflict with the United States and some of its European partners.

Speaking on television on Sunday night President Mitterrand made clear that the opening of a new round of GATT trade talks, as urgently desired by Washington, depends for France on US acceptance of talks on international monetary reform.

Mitterrand was evidently irritated by comments made by President Reagan on Saturday in an interview with the French daily newspaper, *Liberation*, in which Mr Reagan appeared to go back on the recent concession made by Mr James Baker, US Treasury Secretary, who only a fortnight ago accepted, in principle, that a special meeting on international monetary reform should be held in Washington this summer.

Mitterrand also made clear his irritation with Mr Reagan's confident assumption in the same interview that the recent French initiative of coordinated European research into advanced civil technologies, dubbed Eureka, was simply the European response to the US strategic defence initiative (SDI) known as Star Wars.

Mr Reagan said he felt no hostility towards the Eureka project, and that he expected to hear more about it at the Bonn summit.

However, Mitterrand insisted on Sunday night that Eureka had nothing to do with SDI, the former being a strictly European project with purely civil objectives, while the latter was an American military project.

Eureka did not require US benediction, he said, frostily, and therefore did not need to be discussed at Bonn.

SDI, on the other hand, "could be discussed", he said, but made clear France's strong reservations on that project.

Hanoi offer to normalize US links

Hanoi (AFP) - Vietnam is willing to normalize relations with the United States, the Communist Party's Secretary-General, Mr Le Duan, said yesterday in a speech commemorating the defeat of the US-backed South Vietnamese Government 10 years ago.

Vietnam, he said, "favours goodwill negotiations between the countries, and the groups of countries in South-East Asia." Obstacles artificially put in the way of the "renaissance" of the Cambodian people, and of the inclination towards dialogue in South-East Asia should be removed, he said.

Speaking of the causes and significance of Hanoi's victory 10 years ago which unified Vietnam, he emphasized the "decisive role" of the party leadership in the struggle.

● HO CHI MINH CITY: The former capital of South Vietnam is all dressed up to celebrate today's tenth anniversary of communist rule (Reuters reports). Everyone will have a day off work.

Third World links: 2

Satellite lifeline to the global village

Easy access to a phone for almost everyone in the Third World within two decades is the aim of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Even if such access is defined as half a day's walking, it compares with perhaps a week's travel at present. In the second of two articles Alan McGregor in Geneva looks at the plans for using satellites.

Satellites eliminate the need to extend land lines or conventional radio-telephone networks from capital cities to distant points. A satellite covers every corner of its catchment area, providing many thousands of simultaneous phone calls to ground stations with antennae measuring no more than 8ft across.

The cost of bringing remote communities into national networks is not much greater than for more accessible places. Satellite systems are simpler to maintain and more reliable. Moreover, the failure of one ground station does not affect others, whereas with systems based on a series of links the whole chain can be disrupted.

Satellite systems are particularly suitable for large areas where communications are almost non-existent, but they can also be a solution where networks are simply obsolete and swamped. Italy, for example, with an acute telephone shortage, plans to add 150,000 satellite circuits between its dozen main cities.

The way ahead for the Third World is being shown by countries big enough to go it alone, such as Indonesia, India and Brazil. They, in turn, have before them the precedent of Alaska, whose 400,000 population lives for the most part in widely scattered villages, some more than 150 miles apart.

In 1971, sites on Alaska were picked to participate in a medical communications network using NASA's ATS1 satellite. Four years later the Alaska legislature gave funds for 120 small earth stations, establishing a telephone service to more than 200 communities with a population of 25 or more.

The average revenue for village phones is more than three times that from their urban counterparts, underlining the point repeatedly made by the ITU secretary general, Mr Richard Butler, that telecommunications are a generator of socio-economic development.

A single line into a hitherto isolated rural region is regarded as the equivalent of anything up to 1,000 in a city: a lifeline as against additional channels of convenience.

ITU studies, carried out with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), point to adequate telecommunications providing benefits estimated at anything from 10 to 20 times their cost. A study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Cairo University, comparing in 146 Egyptian villages the expenditure on setting up a telephone service with revenues from businesses, indicated measurable benefits as much as 85 times higher than costs.

TELEPHONE DENSITY PER 100 POPULATION	
Chad	0.16
Bangladesh	0.13
Burma	0.11
India	0.43
Sri Lanka	0.71
Sudan	0.35
Egypt	1.09
Philippines	1.54
Nicaragua	1.76
Jamaica	6.21
Turkey	6.22
Greece	7.17
Britain	31.70
US	51.66
Switzerland	78.74
Soviet Union	76.85
	9.83

(Cost of a rural line is reckoned at five times that of an urban line).

Great world phone-in 25

Radio journalist shot dead in Philippines

From Keith Dalton, Manila

A radio commentator was yesterday shot dead by unidentified gunmen who stormed into his studio booth and shot him five times, the state-run Philippine News Agency reported.

Listeners to radio station DXWG in Iligan City, 500 miles south of Manila, heard gunshots and then the commentator, Mr Charlie Aberilla, groaning and gasping for breath. Mr Aberilla, aged 64, died several hours later in hospital.

According to the agency three men armed with pistols entered the radio station at 6.45 am on the pretext of handing in a public service announcement.

After the killing they fled on foot.

The motive for the murder is unknown as Mr Aberilla had no known enemies. However, his early morning talk programme was known for its criticism of local anti-Government groups. He is the second reporter this year to be shot dead and the tenth journalist to be murdered since January, 1984.

Ironically, the shooting of Mr Aberilla coincided with the start of National Press Week in the Philippines and came only hours before the Defence Minister, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, was to meet local journalists to discuss the spate of killings.

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1. If you are 25 or under you will only be able to claim supplementary benefits for your lodgings for a limited period. After this your benefit will be cut. There are some limited exceptions, but it is important to understand these changes do not apply only to those living at the seaside. They

affect you wherever you live.

2. Even if you are 26 or over your benefit may still be cut. The Government is introducing new lower limits on payments. These reductions also affect those under 26 who are exempted from the time restrictions on benefit claims.

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These changes do not come into force immediately so don't panic. Here's what to do:

1. Send now for a free leaflet explaining all the changes in full. Use the coupon. It's free post so it doesn't even cost you the price of a stamp. Or you can phone 01-200 0200. Ask for CHAR.

- Stay put and seek advice now, particularly if you receive a letter from the DHSS.
- Contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau, Housing Aid Centre or local authority housing department for further advice - you'll find their names and addresses in the phone book.
- If you are thinking of coming to London to find a job and a place to stay, think again.
- Even if these changes don't affect you directly, but you know someone they might, for goodness sake help by cutting out this advertisement and showing them. Our young unemployed need all the help they can get.



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Address _____

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Mulroney tells of blunt exchanges with Reagan and Star Wars doubts

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

People would find Canada to be loyal to its friends, but "very bloody-minded" over its independence and its sovereignty, the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Brian Mulroney, said in London yesterday.

Canada's soil was free from nuclear weapons "and we plan to keep it that way," he added in a reference to American hints over the possibility of sitting cruise missiles in his country.

He also expressed misgivings over President Reagan's Star Wars programme, while reiterating Canadian support for research. A team of senior civil servants were now studying the famous invitation by the US defence Secretary, Mr. Caspar Weinberger, for allies to participate in this research.

"I have indicated that while waiting for their report I am less than enthusiastic about Canada being involved in a process where we don't call the shots."

That did not make Canada neutral, and he understood President Reagan's idea. Perhaps one day after the research had been completed someone might be able to take of the threat of war, he said.

"But I do not believe I have heard anyone say that they can produce that sort of weapon from the closet in the foreseeable future."

On US policy in Central America, he said he had expressed Canadian support for the Contadora peace process "in unmistakably clear terms" to President Reagan during their recent summit.

"The aversion of Canada to the intrusion in the affairs of other states is well known. We have expressed the Canadian view with great firmness. We are working very hard to ensure there is a lessening of hostilities."

But he criticized those who went in for weighty conferences and public denunciations of other people's policies.

"I can tell you that sitting around a table just like this, the views of Canada were expressed not to someone down the street, but by our ministers to President Reagan, his Secretary of State and Defence Secretary — and in a very firm and unvarnished way," he said.

Mr. Mulroney was full of admiration for Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, whom he sees today during his first visit as Prime Minister to this country since last year's Canadian elections, while on his way the seven-nation economic summit in Bonn.

Looking forward to the summit, he said he was very "troubled" by the mountains of

debt which were piling up on under-developed countries.

"What happens when you cannot see any light at the end of the tunnel? And when all they youth of the country can see is more work to pay the interest on the debt?"

"We want to make sure that people sitting around that table, suppose will be a fairly elegant table, remember that what transpires there will impact very heavily on those who don't have access. So in some way, I am going to be speaking for my friends in the Third World."

But he also spoke yesterday about his friends in the First World, notably the US, which is Canada's biggest trading partner.

"Our concern is with what he perceived early on to be a protectionist thrust to the US Congress which could seriously inhibit our commercial activities."

As a result his Government had moved quickly to ensure a privileged position for Canada vis a vis Washington.

"We were in some way anticipating the negative reactions we have seen rise most recently in Congress to Japan," Mr. Mulroney said.



Spring enlightenment for an emperor

Emperor Hirohito of Japan admiring cherry blossoms in the gardens of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo yesterday on his 84th birthday.

He is the longest reigning of

Japan's 124 rulers, having been in power for 59 years in a reign named at its outset in 1926 as 'Showa' or 'Enlightenment and Harmony' (David Watts writes).

After a stroll in the gardens, the emperor stood waving behind bullet-proof glass in a modern section of the palace, his frail voice relayed to thousands outside.

Emigration of Soviet Jews rises in April

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Figures for Jewish emigration from Russia are likely to be higher for April than the normal one hundred or so exit visas issued per month, informed sources here say.

But hopes of a more liberal policy on emigration and human rights issues by the Soviet leadership have so far been disappointed, according to observers studying Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev's first six weeks in power.

This assessment coincides with a new chill in East-West relations after tit-for-tat expulsions. Mr. Gorbachev's hard line on arms control, acrimony over the shooting of an American officer in East Germany last month and Western objections to the tone of Moscow's impending VE Day celebrations.

But Western diplomats are encouraged by the publication in *Letsivya* of a letter from the American Ambassador here calling for Superpower reconciliation in the spirit of the "bright spring of 1945" and the meeting on the Elbe.

Diplomats said a toning down of Soviet anti-Western propaganda in response to this appeal would set the tone for a more fruitful discussion on human rights and other East-West issues between Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Shultz in Vienna in May.

The beginning of the Gorbachev era in March was marked by rumours of an increase in Jewish emigration, seen as a goodwill concession by the new leadership to Western opinion.

The number of visas issued has dropped to a trickle in recent years after a high point of more than 50,000 departures in 1978-9. Last year fewer than 900 left Russia.

The March rumours appeared to be partly due to the sudden issue of a number of visas to several "refuseniks" in Moscow — as opposed to other parts of Russia — but the overall emigration figures showed no change, sources said. The Kremlin's view remained that most Jews who wished to leave had already done so, an assertion flatly contradicted by Jewish groups.

Sources said headline Soviet comments on alleged Western violations of the 1975 Helsinki agreements could preface an East-West showdown over human rights, rather than a celebration, when the tenth anniversary of the agreements is marked in Helsinki in August.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Indonesia

Rustomo

By Caroline Moorehead

Last month the family of a man under sentence of death for the last 10 years for trying to revive the banned Indonesian Communist Party learnt that his final appeal for clemency has been rejected by the President.

It now looks virtually certain that Rustomo, Deputy Secretary of the East Java Provincial Committee of the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) will go before the firing squad before long.

Rustomo is 65. He was first arrested in May 1968, having been in hiding since 1965 when all PKI leaders were liable to be arrested after an alleged coup. Many were killed.

At his trial in December 1974 he was accused of trying to organize a revolt against the Government and of undermining the state ideology. It was said that he had arranged meetings with members of the armed forces with a view to mustering forces.

Two other men, Djoko Untung and Gatot Sutaryo, also accused of attempting to revive the outlawed PKI, are to be executed with Rustomo. According to a report in the Jakarta daily newspaper *Kompas*, all that remains to be decided is where the executions are to take place.

If they go ahead, it will be despite repeated assurances to the Dutch Government that this would not happen. Tapol, the British Campaign for the Defence of Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Indonesia, believes that the recent refusal of clemency is a political act, intended to show that the Government is prepared to execute communists as well as Muslims.

The war in Afghanistan

Gorbachov may seek way out of stalemate

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States expects Mr. Mikhail Gorbachov, the new Soviet leader, to make some cautious negotiating probes over Afghanistan in the near future, possibly to put life back into the deadlocked United Nations-sponsored peace talks.

For more than five years Soviet troops have been bogged down in a ferocious, largely secret war against a people bonded by tribalism and Islam.

Regan Administration analysts say they think Mr. Gorbachov may attempt a more "imaginative" course than simply settling down to a continued, humiliating military stalemate.

American satellite intelligence shows thousands of Russian soldiers currently being moved out and replaced by fresh forces as part of the traditional redeployments that

take place in spring and autumn. Based on the number of barracks and tents and the amount of equipment visible in satellite pictures, the Americans estimate there are about 115,000 Russian soldiers in the country.

A senior State Department official who monitors developments in Afghanistan said Mr. Gorbachov's predecessor had embarked on a waiting strategy: waiting for political developments that might re-shape Pakistan's hostility to the Russian occupation; waiting for a softer administration to take over in Washington; waiting for the guerrillas to give up.

The US does not regard Afghanistan as a country of vital strategic interest and is clearly not holding out for the establishment of a pro-West regime, but seeks the establishment of a freely elected, non-aligned government.

Secret American aid to the resistance movement has been stepped up sharply this year, largely due to the efforts of Representative Charles Wilson, a Democrat from Texas. Unlike Nicaragua, Afghanistan is a popular cause in the US and there are no congressional moves to stem the flow of money through the Central Intelligence Agency.

An Administration official said the survival of American strategy on Afghanistan depended largely on political developments in Pakistan. America took seriously a thinly veiled Kremlin warning to Pakistan not to interfere in Afghanistan.

Pakistan consistently denies giving material aid to the resistance movement, but clearly Islamabad's sympathy with the fighters is vital to their survival. The administration does not rule out the possibility

of the Soviet Union trying to subvert the fragile regime of President Zia.

Washington fears that the cautious moves towards democracy in Pakistan could eventually lead to the establishment of a government less friendly to the US.

The Administration believes that disunity among the Afghan rebels is a serious obstacle to peace talks.

● ISLAMABAD: Pakistan claimed yesterday that four Afghan planes had rocketed and bombed a Pakistani border area in the North-West Frontier Province, killing one civilian and wounding another (Reuters reports).

A Government statement said Pakistan lodged a strong protest yesterday with the Afghan chargé d'affaires in Islamabad against the alleged violation on Friday in Chitral district.

Ershad to stay as army chief

Dhaka (Reuters) — President

Hossain Mohammad Ershad has extended his tenure as the chief of the Bangladesh army for another year, the government daily *Ittefaq* reported yesterday.

One opposition leader, who declined to be named, said the extension was clear proof that General Ershad's programme for restoring democracy had been shelved for another year.

The extension enabling him to continue as chief of the army until December 1, 1986, was ratified in a Cabinet meeting last week, the newspaper said.

A source close to the President said General Ershad would be able to use his authority as chief martial law administrator to introduce constitutional changes to back his reform programmes.

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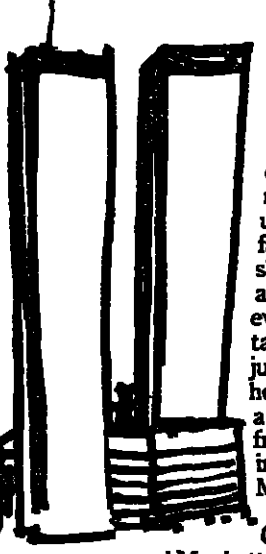
Start at the top—downtown

New York is a big place. So, if you're unsure about where to begin, this ad will help you get started. Starting downtown—at the World Trade Center, with a

bird's-eye view of the entire New York/New Jersey area. In just 58 seconds, an amazing elevator will whisk you to the top of the tallest twin towers in the world. (Admission is \$3.54, \$1.80 for children under 12.) From the open air promenade, above the 110th floor, you'll enjoy a breathtaking view—at a quarter of a mile high.

If you get hungry, the World Trade Center has twelve restaurants to choose from. Including the *Hors d'Oeuvre*, at *Windows on the World*, serving drinks,

elegant snacks and the same great view. Live music and dancing start at 7:30 p.m. Jackets are required.



A taste of the world

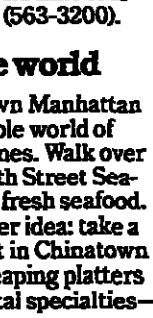
Why, in downtown Manhattan alone, there's a whole world of international cuisines. Walk over to the historic South Street Seaport, for a lunch of fresh seafood. Or, here's another idea: take a taxi to Mott Street in Chinatown—and indulge in heaping platters of steaming Oriental specialties—for less than \$12 a person.

Afterwards, stroll over a few blocks to Mulberry Street in Little Italy—for zappoli, cannoli and cappuccino, for dessert.

And if that doesn't appeal to you, there's a whole city of cuisines to explore. From Mexican, Tibetan, and Japanese. To Creole, Portuguese, Russian, and Scandinavian—even American.

As you sip your drinks, look south into the harbor, and you'll see a familiar face—the Statue of Liberty. Currently, she's undergoing a facelift. But there she stands, as tall and as proud as ever. Ferry boats take you to her for just \$2.40. Every hour from 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. from Battery Park in lower Manhattan.

Or see her on a Circle Line tour around Manhattan (563-3200).



Symbol of a city

New York City is famous for its many skyscrapers—but perhaps most famous for the Empire State Building. Once the tallest building in the world, it still remains a beacon of "the city of dreams." The Observation Deck opens every day at 9:30 a.m. and closes at 11:00 p.m. Admission is just \$3.30—\$1.80 for children under 12. Try to get there early.

Shop your way uptown

A block or two west of the Empire State Building are two of New York's most famous stores: *Macy's* and *Gimbel's*. Stop in.

Then take a stroll up Fifth Avenue, past the classic windows of *B. Altman* and *Lord & Taylor* (Up at 42nd Street, say hello to *Patiencrand Fortitude*—the famous lions that guard the New York Public Library.)

Saks Fifth Avenue is at 49th Street—just across from Rockefeller Center, where you can catch your breath and maybe some lunch—surrounded by lush gardens and glittering skyscrapers. Farther uptown are *Cartier*, *Gucci*, *Stauben Glass*, *Tiffany's*—and *Bergdorf Goodman*, just across from Central Park, where horse-drawn carriages stand ready for hire.

The stars on Broadway

A trip to New York wouldn't be complete without taking in a Broadway show. Purchase tickets at the box office or through ticket



brokers in the Times Square Area. Or, on the day of the performance, you can get half-price tickets at the TKTS office, at 46th & Broadway. It opens at 3:00 p.m. daily for evening performances, noon for matinees—but get there an hour earlier for best choice of shows.

New Jersey's winning entertainment

Right across the Hudson River, is New Jersey—home of Atlantic City—America's newest casino city. Getting there is easy. Buses leave from the Port Authority Bus Terminal (at 8th Ave. & 42nd St.) every hour on the hour—from 12 noon till 10 p.m., every



weekend. The 2 1/2-hour ride costs \$28.50 round trip. For weekday schedules, call New Jersey Transit, at 1-201-762-5100.

New Jersey is also the home of the Meadowlands—America's largest sports and entertainment complex. For information about sports events and concerts, call 1-201-935-3900. For horseracing, call 1-201-935-8500.

Well worth the stop

Stopping over in the New York/New Jersey area is a lot more affordable than you think. There are comfortable hotels in every price range. Uptown, downtown, all over town. Near the lights of Broadway or Atlantic City. Your travel agent can book them for you.

So why fly over America's greatest attraction when it's so easy to stop over? Ask your travel agent about low-cost tours and stop-over packages that start in the New York/New Jersey area. Then come stop over!

All prices based on current rates at time of printing.

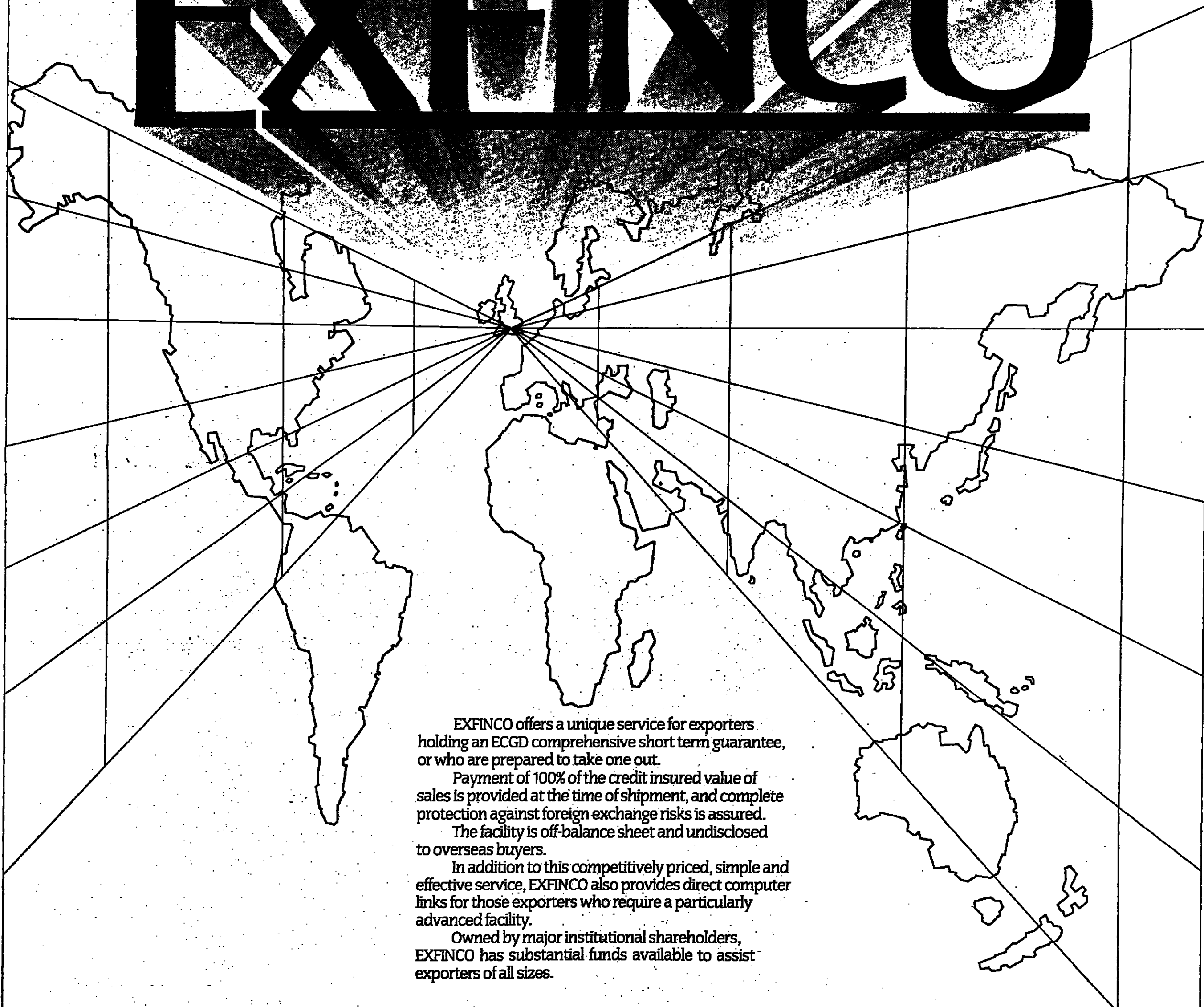
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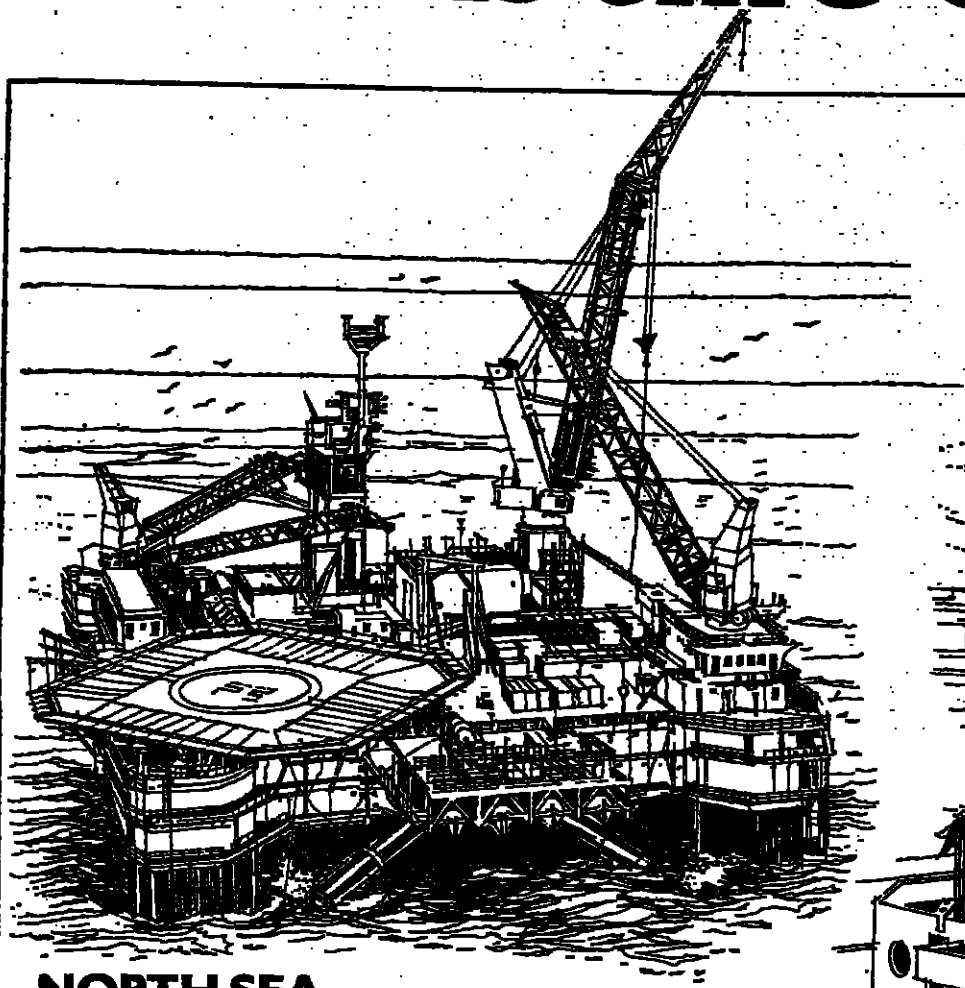
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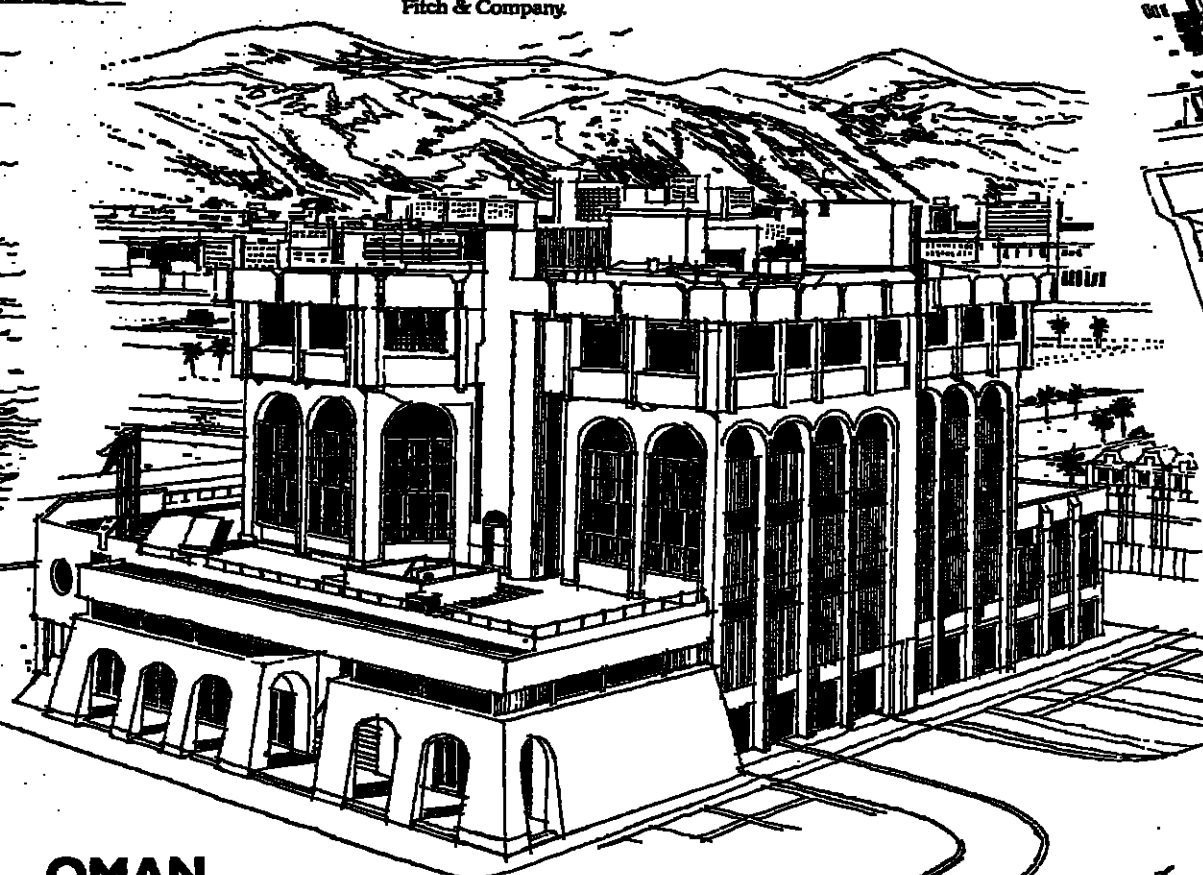
T20/5

A worldwide reputation built on teamwork.



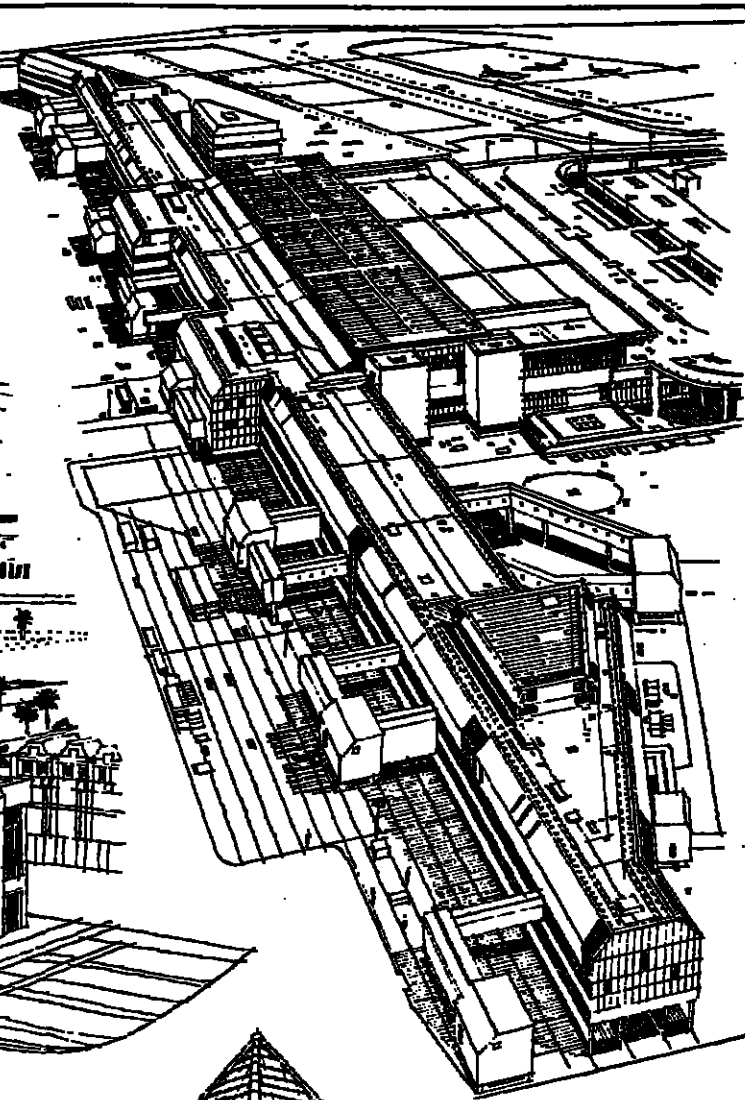
NORTH SEA

MSV Stadive, operated by Seaforth Maritime Ltd. an associate company of Taylor Woodrow, on behalf of Shell UK Exploration and Production, operators for a joint venture between Shell and Esso in the UK area of the North Sea.



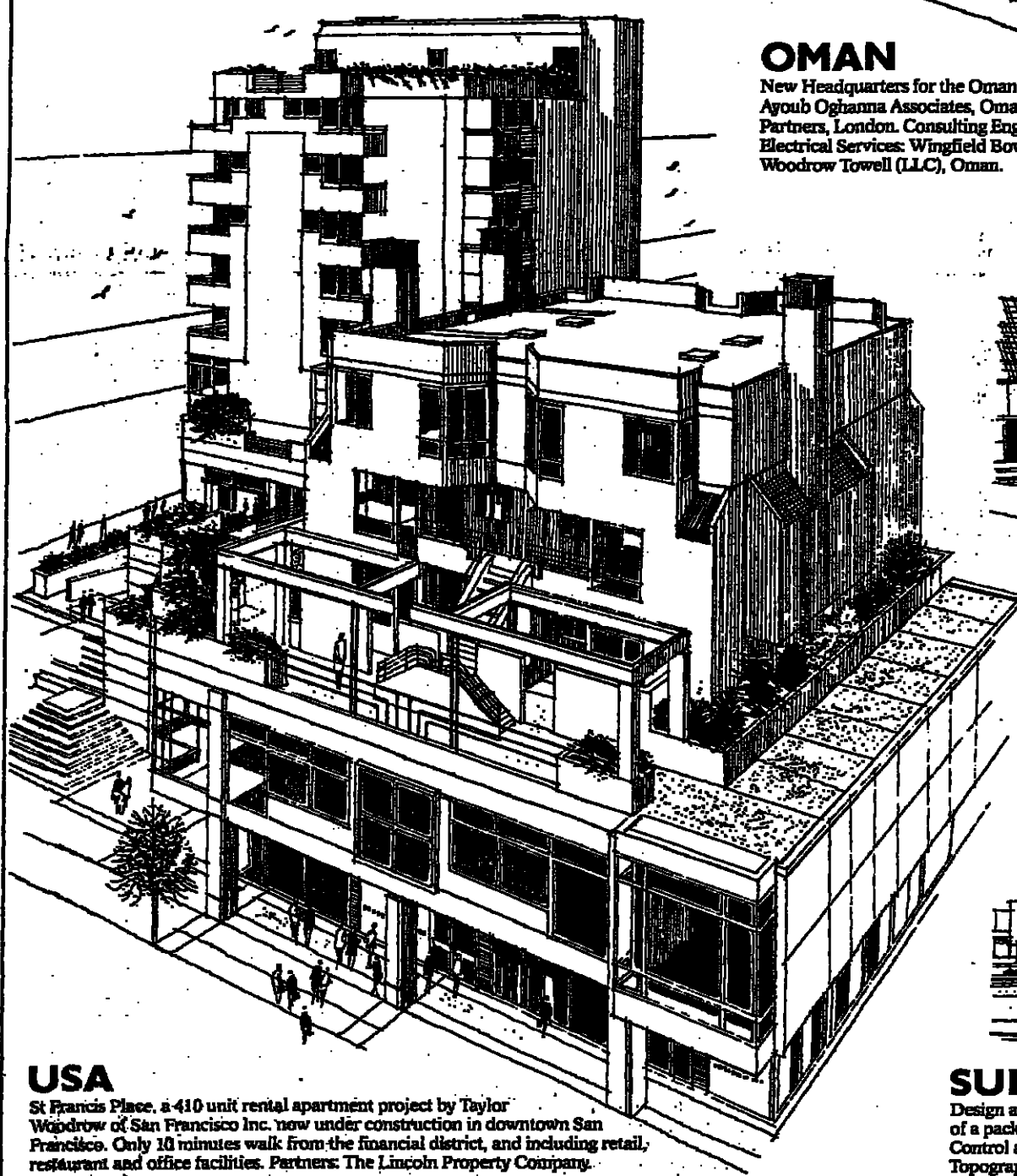
OMAN

New Headquarters for the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Architects: Ayoub Oghanna Associates, Oman, in association with Jefferson Sheard and Partners, London. Consulting Engineers: R. Travers Morgan, Oman. Mechanical and Electrical Services: Wingfield Bowles and Partners, London. Contractor: Taylor Woodrow Towell (LLC), Oman.



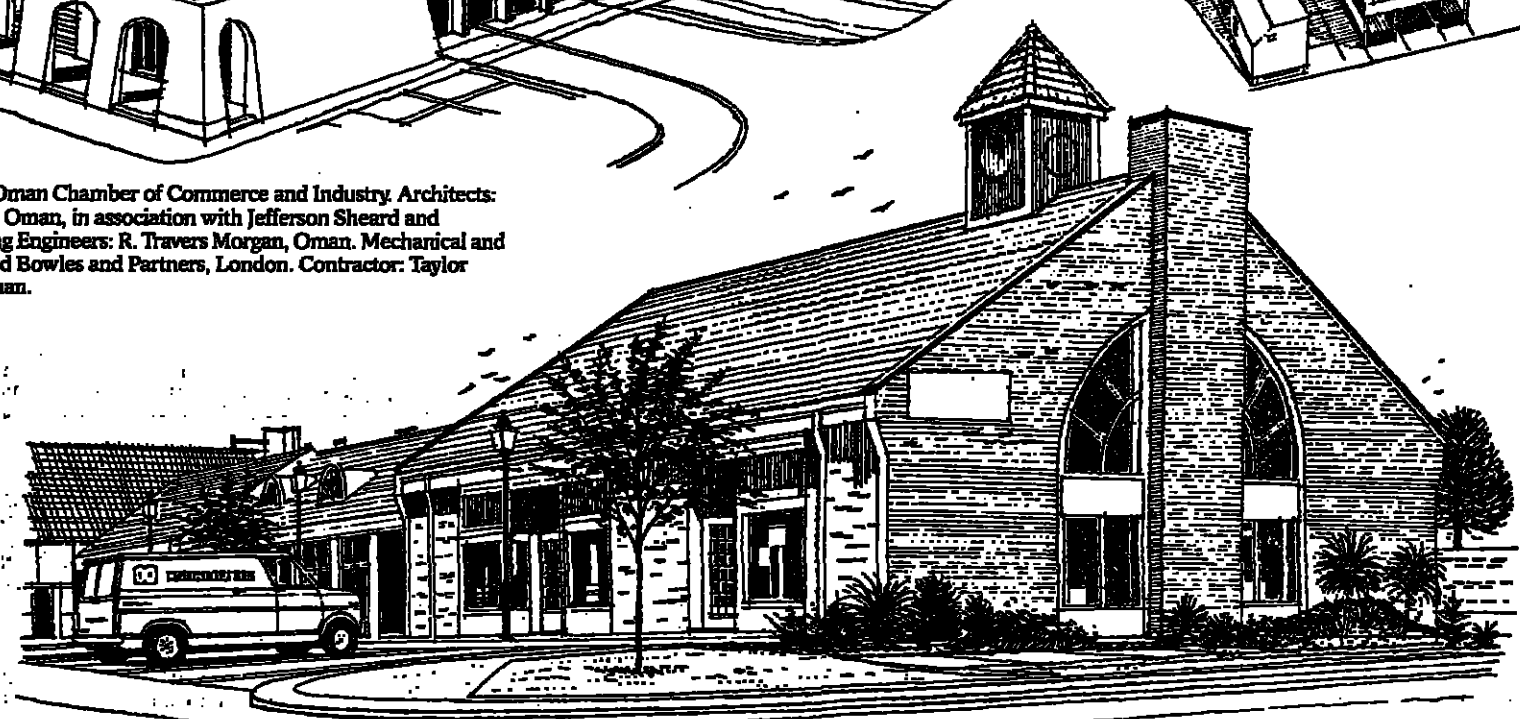
LONDON

Heathrow Airport Terminal 4, for which Taylor Woodrow Construction Limited are Management Contractors. Client: British Airports Authority. Designers: British Airports Authority Engineering Department, Scott Brownrigg & Turner. Engineers: British Airports Authority Engineering Department, Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Partners. Mechanical: Donald Smith Seymour & Rooley Electrical: McLellan & Partners. Quantity Surveyors: British Airports Authority Quantity Surveying Department. Davis Belfield & Everest, Currie & Brown. Interior Design Consultants: Fitch & Company.



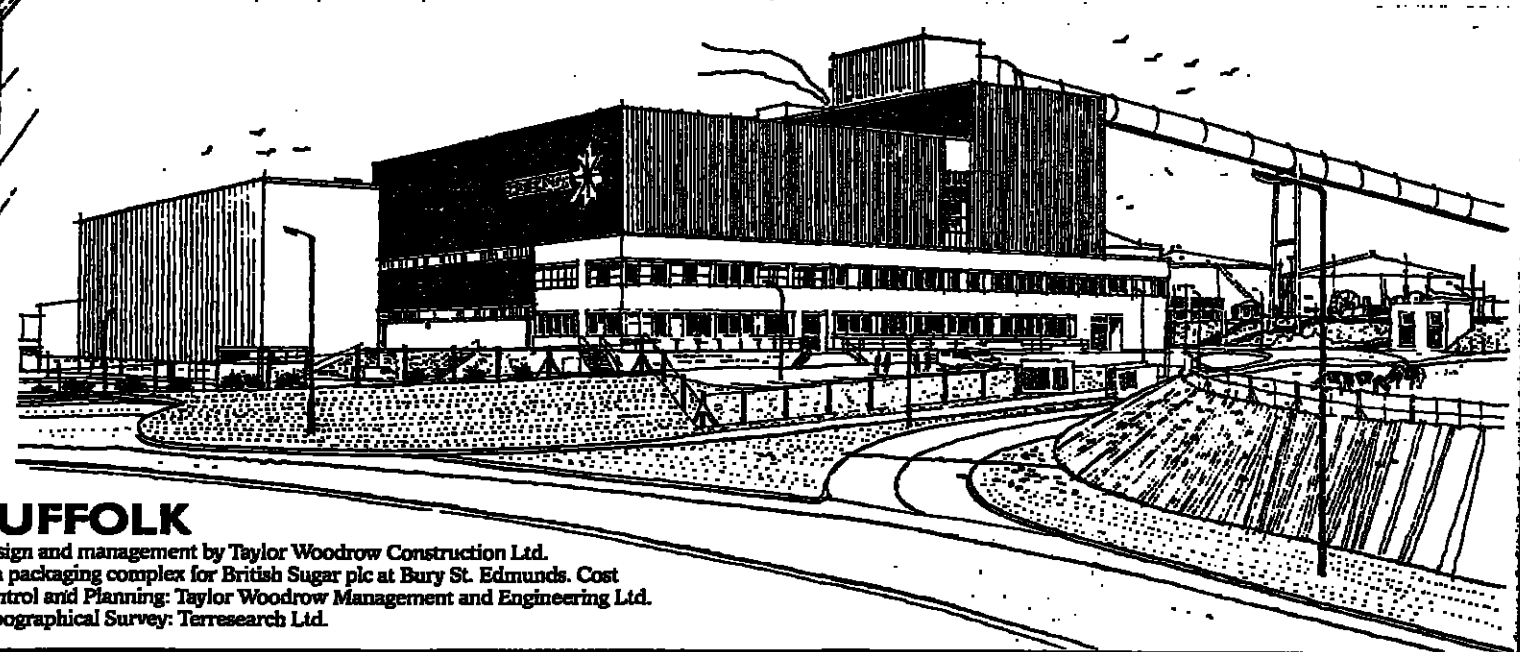
USA

St Francis Place, a 410 unit rental apartment project by Taylor Woodrow of San Francisco Inc. now under construction in downtown San Francisco. Only 10 minutes walk from the financial district, and including retail, restaurant and office facilities. Partners: The Lincoln Property Company.



CANADA

A 12,000 sq. ft. neighbourhood shopping plaza with 11 adjacent stores. Part of the prestigious Bridle Trail community development at Unionville, north of Toronto. Architects: Fliess, Gates, McGowan, Easton. Main Contractor: Monarch Construction Ltd.



SUFFOLK

Design and management by Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd. of a packaging complex for British Sugar plc at Bury St. Edmunds. Cost Control and Planning: Taylor Woodrow Management and Engineering Ltd. Topographical Survey: Terresearch Ltd.

There is no easy road to success. Frank Taylor began in 1921, building his first pair of houses in Blackpool (which are still in excellent condition).

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Working in all five continents, Taylor Woodrow are actively promoting the very best of modern technology, encouraging our expertise to develop

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In his second article on the aftermath of defeat, Michael Binyon reports on the Third Reich's own refugees

The Germans who can never go home

1945
40
YEARS
ON

As the Red Army
swept into East Prussia
in 1945, 14 million
Germans fled West.

Two million died on the hazardous journey to safety. Ottfried Hennig recounts how he and his family escaped from Königsberg expecting to return soon. They never did

Ottfried Hennig was eight years old when British bombers flew over his home in Königsberg — a town that is now called Kaliningrad and is part of the Soviet Union. He remembers crouching under a table in the garden in 1944 as the bombers dropped the deadly load on the former capital of East Prussia, setting the city ablaze and totally destroying his father's surgery.

For those Germans living in the eastern-most part of the Reich, the steady advance of the Soviet Army caused growing panic. There were terrible stories of what had happened to German families who had not fled in time. But until the final chaotic weeks, the Nazis refused to allow anyone to leave, as this was regarded as a treasonable sign of defeatism. So the Hennig family stayed on, carefully repairing their house after the bombing and hoping that civilian life could continue in this ancient German city.

By January 1945, however, the situation was desperate. The Red Army was only a few miles away and Königsberg was encircled by tanks. For a brief 24 hours, however, the ring was broken and Dr Hennig decided his family had to get out as fast as possible. "I remember how we left everything tidy, locked the door and even left the key in the lock," said his son, now a State Secretary in the Bonn Government's Ministry of Inner-German Relations. "My father didn't want the Russians breaking down the door. We left the family silver in a big black chest. We all thought we would be going back."

It was a particularly harsh winter, with more than 3ft of snow and temperatures around 25 degrees below zero. As a gynaecologist Dr Hennig was ordered to accompany the women leaving Königsberg, and he was able to get hold of a small car. The family packed their few possessions, mainly clothing, and all five squeezed in for the flight westwards.

After 16 hours continuous driving, with the noise of shells exploding nearby and an endless stream of refugees on the narrow icy roads, Dr Hennig fell asleep at the wheel. The car hit a tree and was wrecked. Apart from cuts and bruises the family was all right, but there was no way of repairing their means of escape. What saved their lives was the father's knowledge of horses. They managed to get hold of

a horse and cart from a nearby farm and set off again. "We travelled for 16 days through the snow. I remember I wore seven layers of clothing to keep out the cold — which made it hard to go to the toilet. In the evenings we used to pull in to a farm or school for shelter. There was one terrible time when a man from the Nazi Party came and told us we had to give up the horse and cart because they were needed in the evacuation of about 30 war-blinded soldiers. This was the moment when by father had to choose life or death, for we would never have survived on foot in the snow. And he chose to save his family."

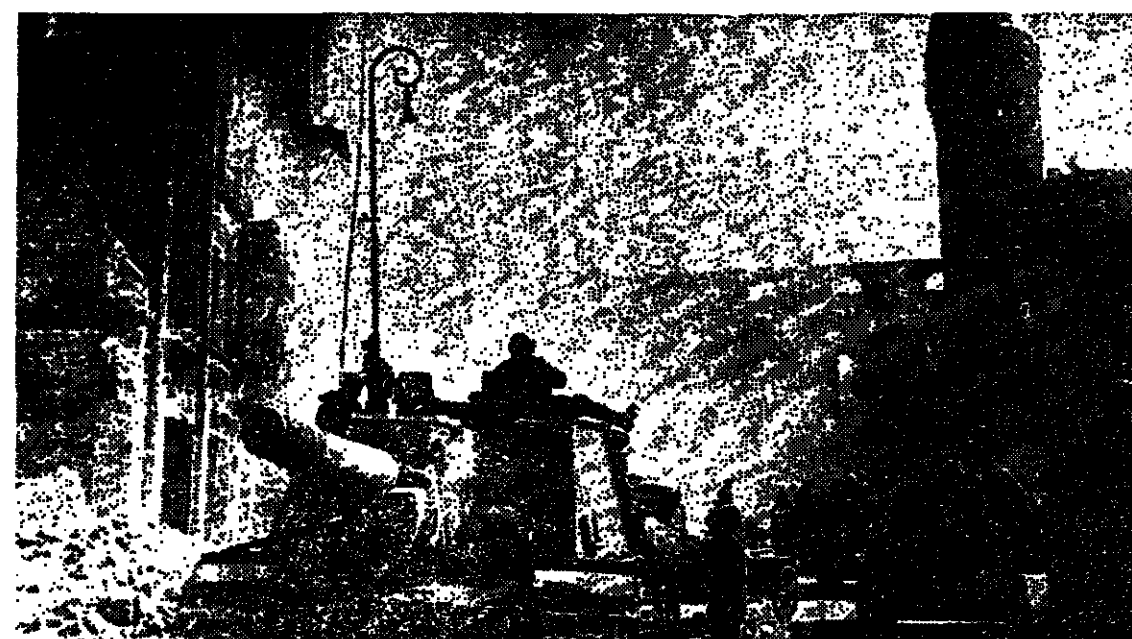
"In the middle of the night we fled with the cart. The war-blinded probably died as a result. I don't know, in any case we continued westwards. I remember endless columns of soldiers and civilians with our cart pushing through them."

The worst thing was the bottle-necks at the bridges. There were constant bombardments and it took hours to get across. The battle in Königsberg was very hard, we later found out. The people who stayed suffered a terrible fate, and 90 per cent of them it ended in death. My father left his mother behind in my uncle's house as they refused to leave. He committed suicide as the Russians came. My grandmother had only potato peelings to eat and in 1946 starved to death. My father always reproached himself for leaving her."

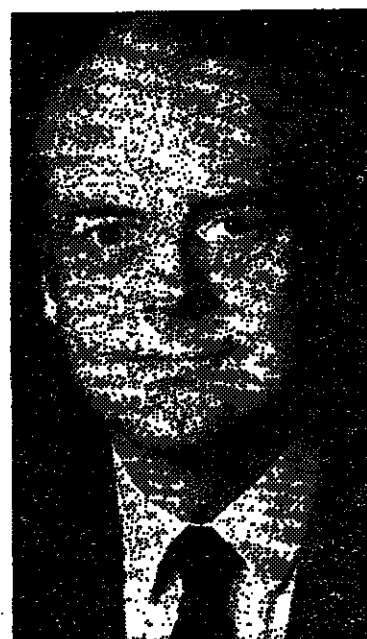
The family finally reached Mecklenburg, in what is now East Germany, and Dr Hennig was ordered to take over a practice in Rostock, on the coast. They stayed three months there, and Ottfried, who had not been to school since it was bombed in August 1944, was found a private teacher. None of the schools was open.

By April, however, the Russians had also reached Rostock, and on May 1 the Hennig family fled in one of the last boats, a small cargo ship overcrowded with thousands of desperate refugees. The ship, commandeered as a hospital ship, was fired on as it sailed for Denmark. It arrived off Flensburg, and Hennig remembers seeing the remnants of the German Fleet being scuttled on the orders of Grand-Admiral Donitz, the new Führer.

The refugees were not allowed to land in Denmark. The Danes were



The story of an escape: top left, the Hennig family in 1945, with Ottfried aged eight. Top right, a map showing the Hennigs' flight from the Russians. Above left, Soviet tanks in the streets of Königsberg in April 1945. Above right, Ottfried Hennig today



newspapers, so we had no idea what was going on. Everyone expected to be able to go home within a few months.

It was a long time before the Hennig family, or any of the refugees, faced up to the fact they would never go back. Herr Hennig, who has since made a successful end of his life, is realistic enough to accept that the eastern territories have been irrevocably incorporated into Poland and Russia. He has tried many times to visit Kaliningrad, but the Russians are adamant in not allowing any outsiders in.

Herr Hennig, who is chairman now of the Association of East Prussians in West Germany, noted that 300,000 Germans go back each year to the Polish part of his former homeland, and hopes the Russians will one day relent. "I am sure though it would be a sad journey to go back."

The great exodus of Germans from the east in 1945 is something the rest of Europe knows little about nowadays. There is a widespread feeling in any case that the loss of the eastern territories was the price Germany deserved to pay for the Second World War. In human terms it was a high price — but one exacted by the Nazis themselves in their refusal to allow civilians to leave when it was possible.

Koch, the Nazi Gauleiter of East Prussia, insisted until the final moment on the official belief in ultimate victory. "If it had not been for him, far fewer people would have died in the flight," Herr Hennig said. "He himself got a plane out and left everyone to fend for himself as the Russians advanced. But he was returned to East Prussia, and is still there today, a prisoner for life in a Polish jail in Allenstein."

TOMORROW

Building a democracy: the problems of reviving German political life

Tomorrow night, the audience of ITV's *Coronation Street* will be swelled beyond its normal 17 million or so by a number of highly influential retailers. Their interest will be less in the soap than in one of the ads in the commercial break.

For Wednesday sees the launch, not just of a new TV commercial but of a new brand, from one of the United States' biggest food companies, General Mills, and store managers and senior executives of the major grocery multiples have been alerted.

Even before it has appeared, however, the commercial — and the £2½ million being spent on its transmission over the next year — has justified its existence, for the product has achieved listings in all the major multiples such as Asda, Sainsbury and Tesco. Without that advertising support, retailers would have been far less eager to move aside proven sellers to make room for the newcomer.

The battle to launch new products has always been expensive and risky, producing many more failures than successes, but now it is even tougher. One reason for the great interest in Wednesday's launch is that the product is being sold nationally straight away, without the traditional test marketing. Another is that it is General Mills' first major food launch in the UK for many years. But in other ways it is a totally typical, everyday story of the birth of a brand.

The new brand is called Jump and it is a cereal bar, a type of product unknown in the UK five years ago, though in

Giving the public something to chew on

The health-conscious
1980s have found
their own snack
— a cereal bar.

Torin Douglas on the
birth of a brand

the United States, where they are called granola bars, they have been big business for a decade.

They were launched here in 1980 by the health food company, Jordans, and have been described as "muscle in a stick" — a blend of nuts, grains and seeds which, instead of being left in breakfast cereal form, is bound together like a hard, crunchy flapjack and sold in a paper wrapper like a chocolate bar. They have names such as Harvest Crunch, Natural Crunch and Original Crunch.

By the standards of the £1 billion snacks and confectionery market, the cereal bar sector is still tiny — a mere £10 million last year, just four times the size of the Jump launch budget — but it is growing fast. In 1982, 55 million cereal bars were sold in the UK. This year's forecast is three times that number — 160 million bars, which will be worth around £16 million.

What makes the marketing men really excited, however, is



Ready for take-off: the ad which launches the campaign

the size and rapid growth of the United States market, where in the last four years sales have trebled to \$700 million. What has happened there, should happen here they believe.

"Because it's made totally of natural ingredients, with no artificial additives, it has capitalized on the health and fitness boom and the increasing importance of diet," says Mike Parsons, account director at Jump's advertising agency, Humphreys Bull and Barker. "At the same time, increased leisure time, the trend to having fewer formal meals and the increase in packed school lunches have all contributed to the market growth."

Despite this success, General

Mills' research showed there was a problem. Many people had tried the crunchy cereal bars and simply did not like them, particularly children, who found them too hard and dry. "Parrot food" was a popular, disparaging term.

General Mills, however, reckons it has the answer: a "second generation product, specifically developed to overcome consumer resistance. In

the US these new-style products have boosted the market to its current level.

"The new bars are moist and chewy, but still made only with natural ingredients," says Carol Jarvis, product manager at General Mills' UK subsidiary BN Biscuits and Foods. "They have a much broader appeal, particularly to mothers who want to give their children a treat but don't want to fill them with sugar."

One reason BN has done without the regional test market is that it wanted to beat its competitors into the market and, in doing so, it has leapfrogged United Biscuits, which is currently test marketing its own moist cereal bar, Solar. Nevertheless, a great deal of research has gone into the launch of Jump, the first stage of which was to enlist the aid of housewives to select a name and image for the brand. The target audience was defined as mothers and children and the "primary selling proposition" was taken as "the natural healthy snack that's tasty and fun."

Later research among housewives showed that 86 per cent said it matched their expecta-

tions, 74 per cent would buy it and it was preferred to all the existing cereal bars. Given this vote of confidence, the decision was taken to launch.

Humphreys Bull and Barker worked on the advertising campaign. "When we looked at the ads for the competitors, we saw that none of the names came across strongly," says copywriter Lyn Middlehurst.

"You could have switched the names and the ads would have remained the same. We therefore decided strongly branding was very important and that the commercial should centre on the product's name. I liked the idea of someone saying 'No, don't jump, have one of these moist, chewy cereal bars'."

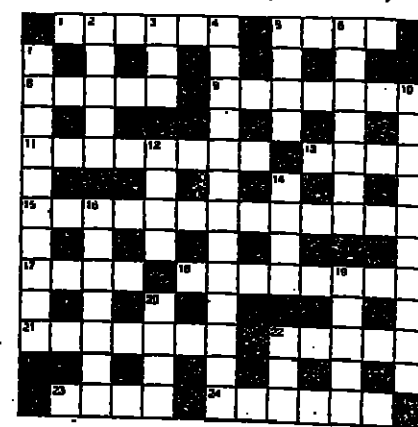
Research showed humour to be the right approach and the original idea was for a Woody Allen-type gag in which a man is contemplating suicide from a high ledge, while the crowd below all shout out "Jump". The Independent Television Companies Association rejected the script on the ground of taste. "We all thought 'How else can we have a man on a ledge' and we came up with the idea of a man with wings strapped on his arms, really believing he is going to fly," says Middlehurst. This time the ITCA approved, and so did the housewives on whom the commercial was tested.

What the hard-nosed managers from Asda and Sainsbury will make of it won't be known until tomorrow night, but if it persuades mothers and children to try the product and to meet its first year target of £5 million sales, they'll be smiling too.



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ACROSS
1 Large wine bottle (6)
5 Boat (4)
8 Cast metal (5)
9 Sluggish (7)
11 Kimship (8)
12 Pierce (4)
15 Questionable (11)
17 Xenon's daughter (4)
18 Photograph (8)
21 Severe cut (7)
22 Metal stud (4)
23 Worshipped image (4)
24 Miserable (6)
DOWN
2 Lawful (5)
3 Receive (3)
4 Banned ANC leader (6,7)
5 Misery cause (4)
6 Found in water (7)
7 Causing turmoil (10)
SOLUTION TO No 631
ACROSS: 1 Refit 4 Justice 8 Plaza 9 Radiant 10 Tiresome 11 Disc 13 Semiskilled 17 Lout 18 Resolute 21 Embargo 22 Aphid 23 Tremble 24 Bore
DOWN: 1 Repute 2 Fair 3 Transfix 4 Jerome K Jerome 5 Soda 6 Imagine 7 Entice 12 Allocate 14 Equable 15 Clitic 16 Meddle 19 T'sher 20 Grub



10 Weaken (10) 19 Destruction (5)
12 Story (4) 20 Cut out weak (4)
14 Discontinue (4) (3)
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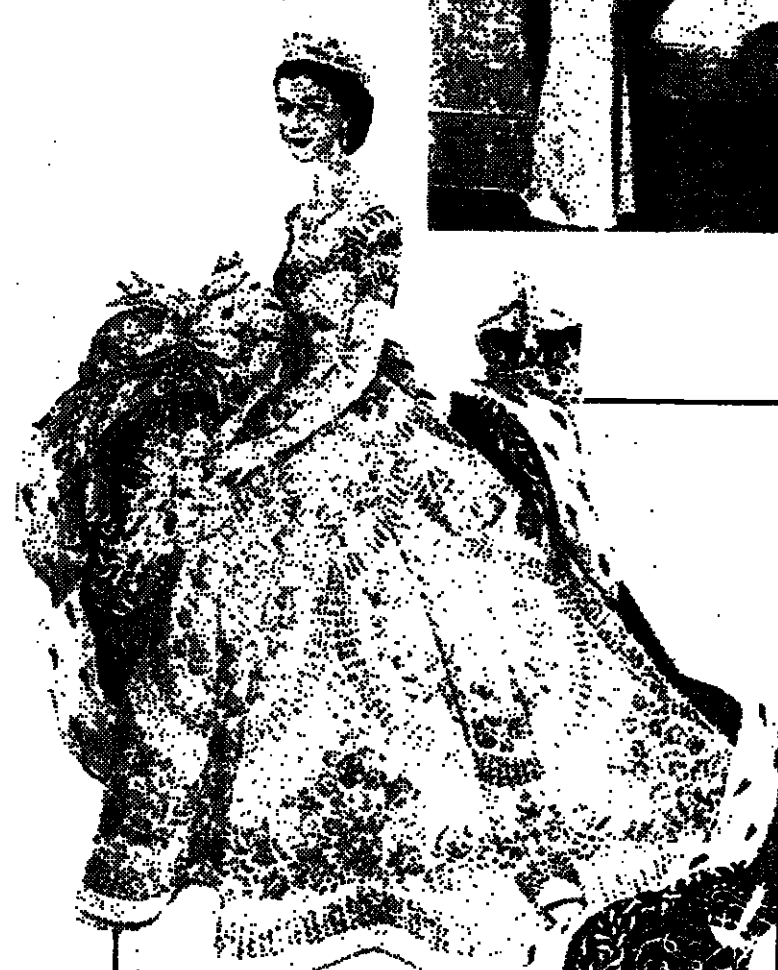
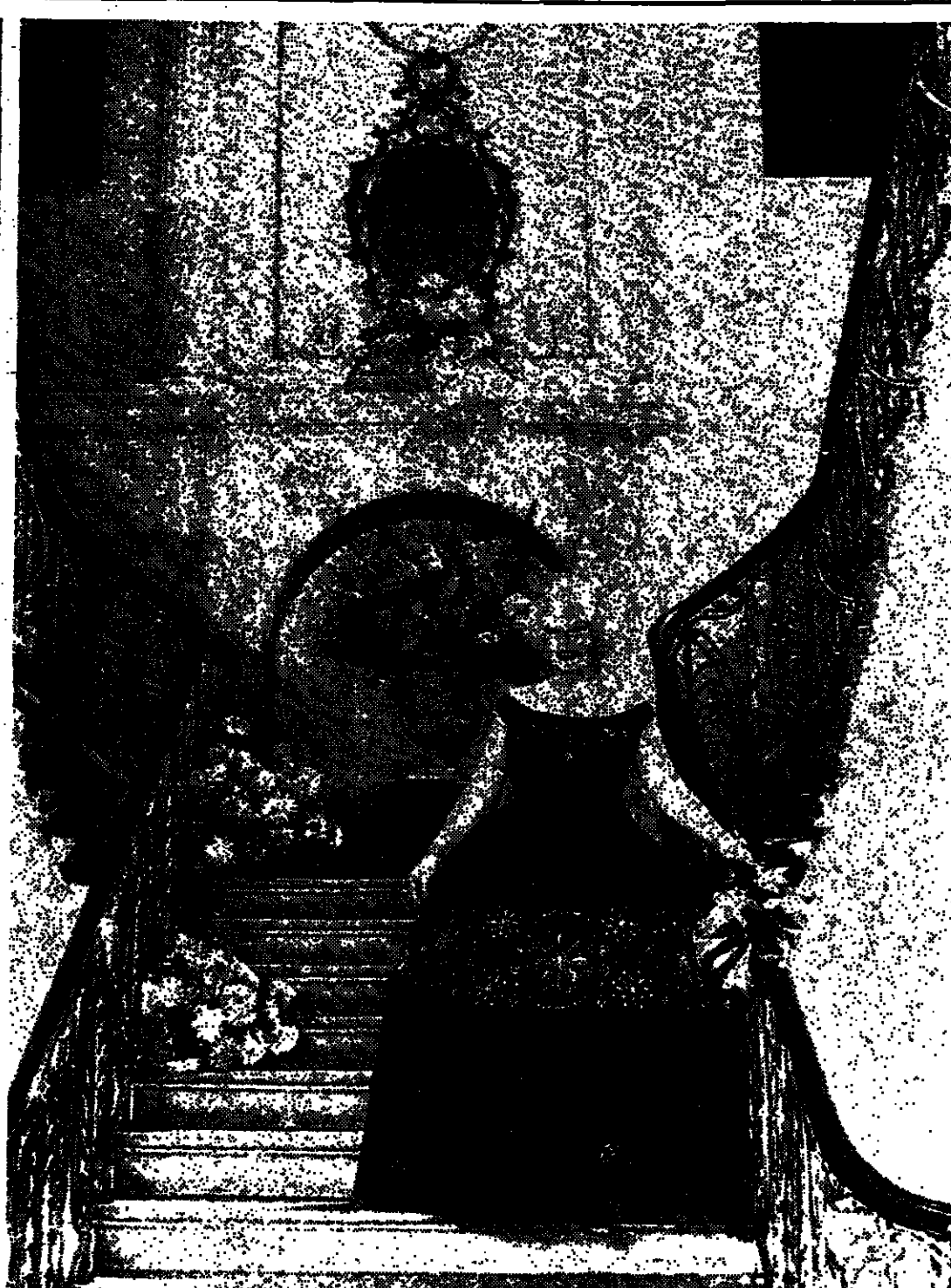
The royal court's last couturier

On Friday, Norman Hartnell's mirrored salon, complete with chandeliers, opens in Brighton.

The salon and its grand sweep of dresses is a homage to England's last court couturier. Six years after Sir Norman's death, the Brighton Museum is staging a major retrospective of his work in the context of the aristocratic society he served. The exhibition is complemented by a second show at the Museum of Costume, in Bath, of 30 Hartnell models from their own collection. Together this amounts to a unique chance to reassess the life and work of a great fashion romantic.

Norman Hartnell ("that lovely bounding bee" as Barbara Cartland described him to me) had a simple philosophy that made for complex and elaborate dresses. "I despise

Sir Norman Hartnell KCVO was royal dressmaker by appointment to HM the Queen and to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. He dressed high society and ladies of the stage. He died in 1979 at the age of 77. His fashion house continues in operation.



simplicity. It is the negation of all that is beautiful", he said.

The early dresses that stand in frozen elegance in the recreated salon in Brighton are surprisingly simple - a slim column of ox-blood chiffon for Anne, Countess of Rosse in the 1920s and a sensuous slither of buttermilk satin sprinkled with 100,000 tiny pearls for Lady Camoys's 1938 wedding dress. "His whole magic", says Miss

Cartland, "was that he was the first person in my generation who did embroidery". Two of her three dresses in the Brighton exhibition rely on embroidery for their effect: a sugar pink chiffon lampshade of a dress ruffled with glass beads and a black velvet crinoline decorated with silver lame and sequinned flowers. "I am more than partial", said Norman Hartnell, "to the jolly glitter of sequins".

He was also partial to the stage and its stars, and dressed its most elegant ladies from Evelyn Laye to Anna Neagle. Archive photographs are hung on the walls of the exhibition and displayed in the splendid and informative Norman Hartnell catalogue (which is really a book costing £4.95, plus £1.20 p&p, from the Brighton Museum). Two raspberry crepe dresses replete with bead embroideries worn by Elsie and Doris Waters contrast with a photograph of Merle Oberon in a slither of gold lame with its mermaid's fishtail hem caught in a pool of light.

Stella Beddoe of Brighton Museum, who has spent a year assembling the exhibition, has put a persuasive picture together of Hartnell's world including the dresses, the gilded chairs from his salon, a quantity of original sketches, his showy hand-embroidered Christmas cards and a massive chandelier. That used to be in Hartnell's home at Lovel Dene near Windsor, was stored in the basement in the salon in Bruton Street, and has now been lovingly reassembled. The chandelier hangs like a talisman in the royal room, which is the centrepiece of the exhibition imaginatively designed by Michael Lock.

It is nearly half a century since King George VI took Norman Hartnell on a tour of the Winterhalter portraits at Buckingham Palace and inspired the young designer to create a new image for Queen Elizabeth. The delicate lace crinolines (made in all-white because of the death of her mother) captivated the Parisians on a state visit to Paris in 1938 and set a standard and a style for royalty for an entire generation. Those dresses were captured in Cecil Beaton's magical portraits of the period and it was Beaton again who pictured the Queen Mother, 10 years later, in a haunting regal pose in a black velvet Hartnell crinoline that will be on show at Brighton.

The Queen Mother was and is Hartnell's most famous

client. She has done him proud, for in the tall green cupboards of the dressing-room at Clarence House are embalmed all her early dresses. Out of the cambric shrouds falls the silver net and duchess satin gown garlanded with white gardenias, made for the Paris visit and captured in Sir Gerald Kelly's portrait of her. Here are feathers and ferns embroidered in silver and gold on the oyster satin dress she wore to her daughter's coronation in 1953. And here is the black velvet dress, so deceptively simple and so beautifully made with its delicate swag of flesh pink chiffon at the bust and its snaking rouleau hem.

The royal connection continued triumphantly for the next two decades, although for Sir Norman himself (who was knighted in 1977 just two years before his death) the apogee of his design career was the coronation dress he made for the Queen, with its graceful emblematic embroideries. It is fashionable to suggest that Norman Hartnell's career was warped by the royal connection and that without that very special patronage his design talent might have developed in a different direction. Yet the current exhibition shows him to be the master of the grand design and in his element in the royal court.

Another portrait, by Oliver Messel of the young Nancy Beaton, shows her as a flower fairy in an enchanted glen wearing a flutter of Hartnell-designed tulip petals. With the Princess of Wales currently showing us how difficult it is to create the right fashion image for royalty in the modern age, it is a good moment to revalue Norman Hartnell's contribution to British fashion. As Barbara Cartland puts it: "He was the designer who made every woman look like a fairy queen".

Above far left: Cecil Beaton's emotive portrait of Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother, in 1947. The Hartnell tiered black velvet crinoline gown is in store at Clarence House and will be the centrepiece of the royal display at the Brighton Museum.

Left: "He made every woman look like a fairy queen", says Barbara Cartland. This velvet dress.

designed for her circa 1955, has cut-out flowers lined in silver lame, embroidered with silver sequins, bugle beads and opalescent paillettes. On display at Brighton. Above left: Margaret, Duchess of Argyll as Mrs Charles Sweeney in her pink Hartnell presentation dress, circa 1935.

Above right: Beaded silk crepe evening dress by Hartnell for Mrs

W Vestey circa 1935. On show at the Bath exhibition.

Above: The sketch that the Queen chose for her coronation gown in 1953. Embroidered emblems in rose diamonds, pearls, amethysts, crystal and gold and silver thread, include the Tudor Rose of England, Scottish thistle, Welsh leek, Canadian maple leaf, Australian wattle and Indian lotus flower.

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Norman Hartnell at Brighton Museum, May 3 to July 2. Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5.45pm, Sunday 2-5pm. Hartnell clothes by the Royal Couturier 1930s-1950s at the Museum of Costume, Assembly Rooms, Bath, until February 2, 1986. Norman Hartnell and Dressing for Occasions: One-day seminar, June 8, information from Stella Beddoe at the Brighton Museum.



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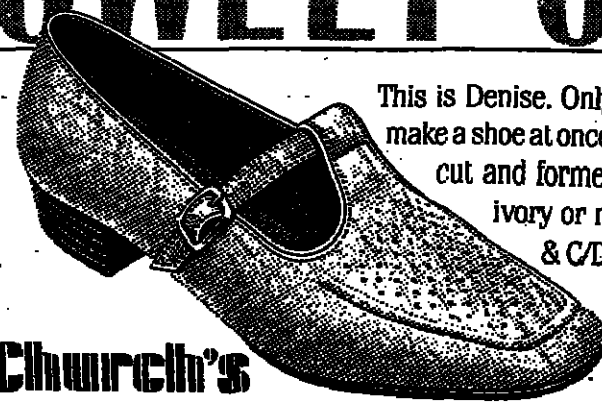
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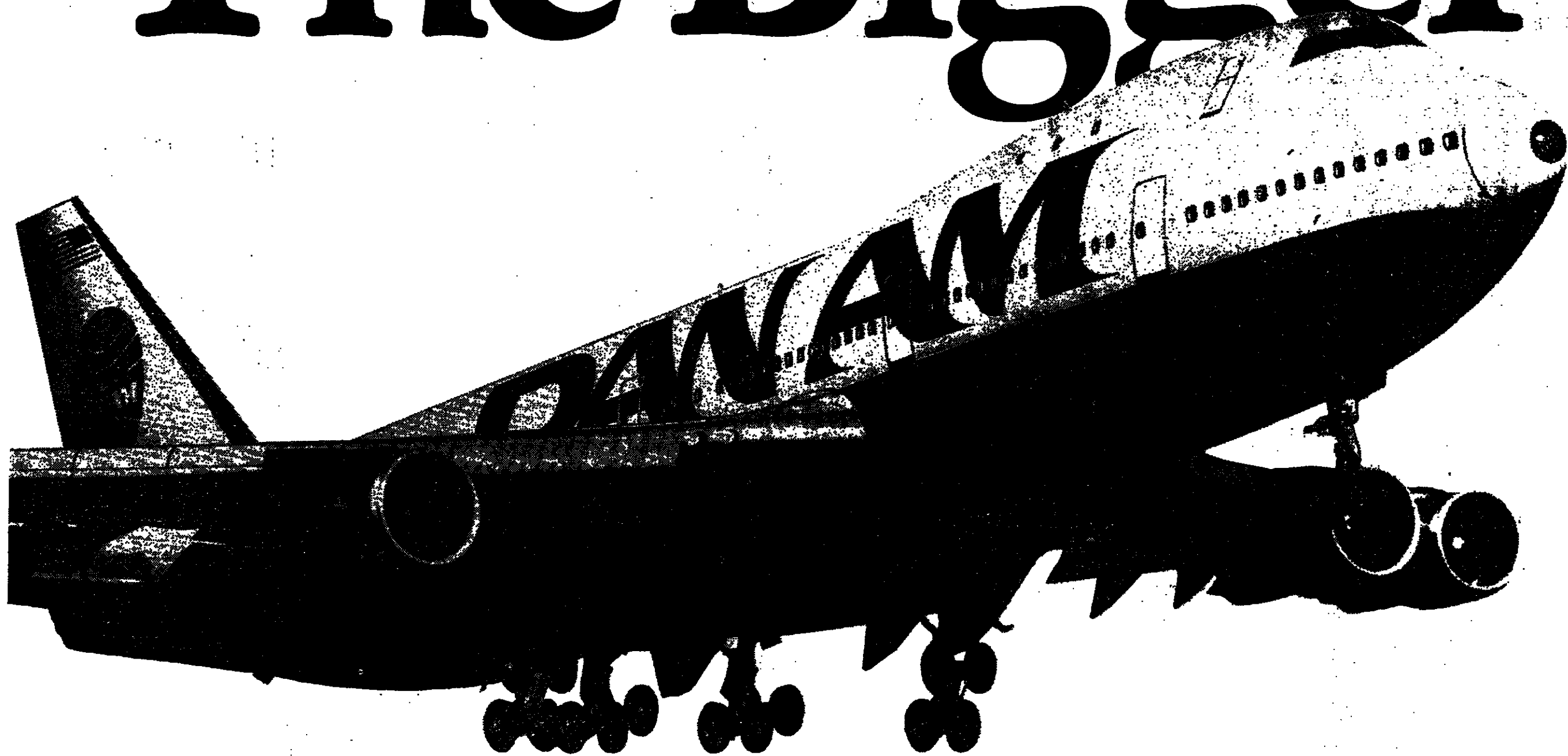
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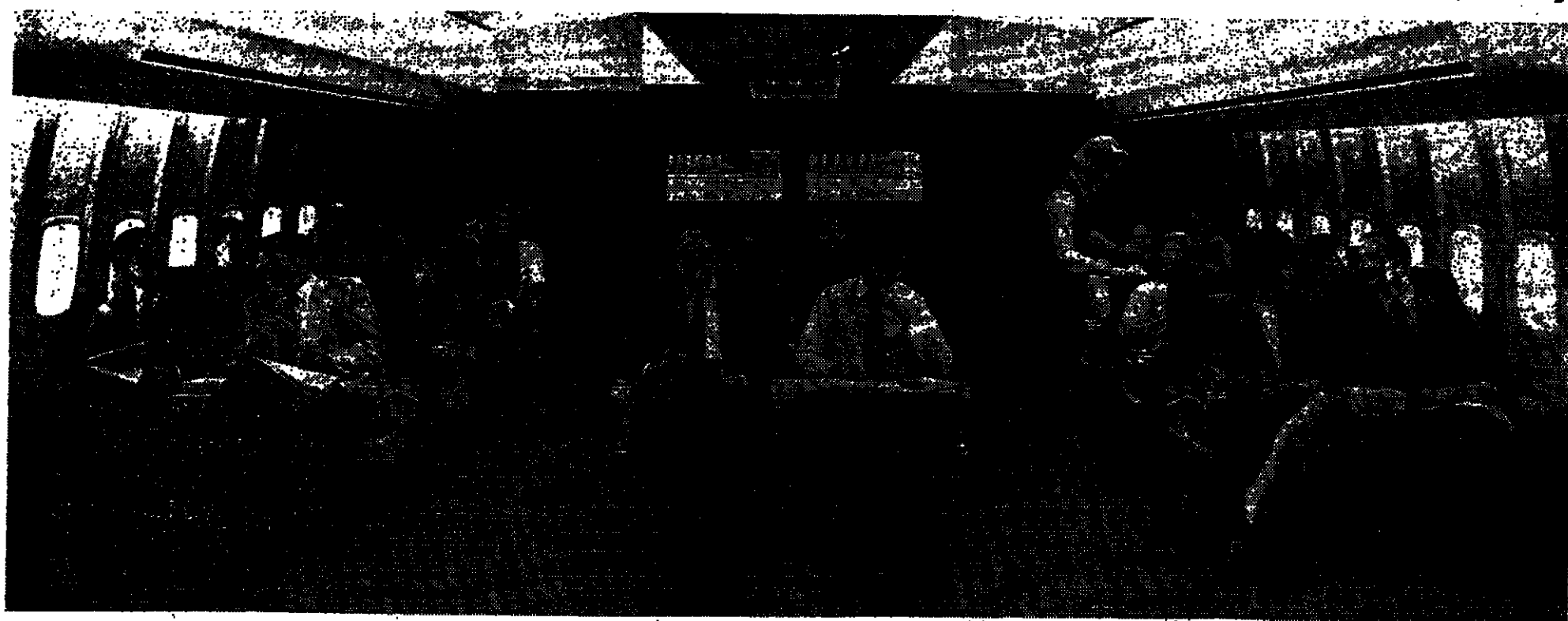
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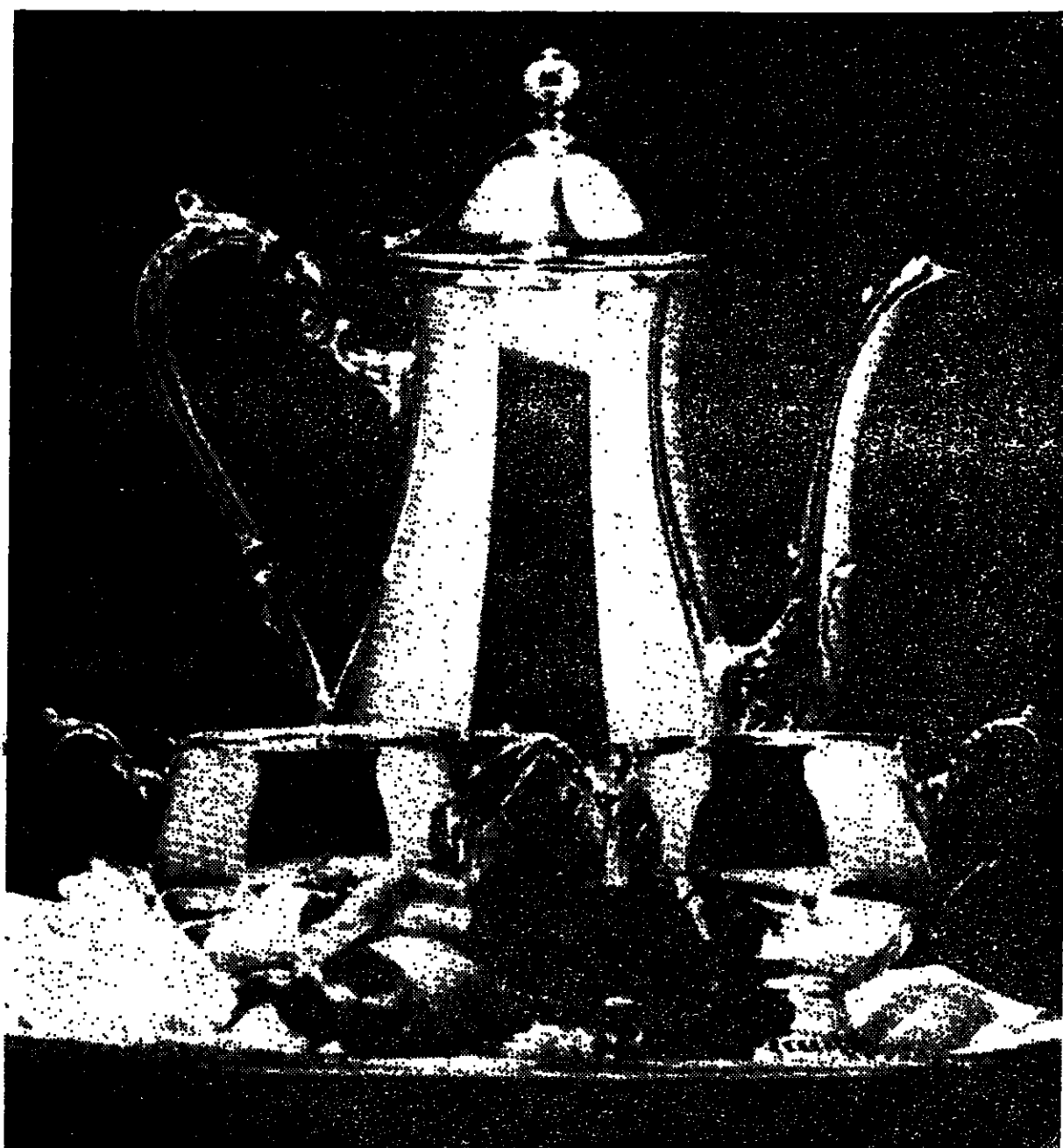
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THE TIMES DIARY

Not taking spin-off

Any member brave enough to take on the old guard at tomorrow's MCC annual meeting should ask an extremely pertinent question about a colossal sum of money now lost to cricket forever – the income that should have been gleaned from the many million pork pies, sandwiches and beers consumed during test and county cricket matches at Lord's in the past 17 years. In 1967, in what must charitably be described as an aberration, the then MCC hierarchy signed away all the catering rights at Lord's to a subsidiary of Grand Metropolitan for 20 years for a fixed sum per year, regardless of takings. The extent of this folly is reflected in the amount the MCC received from catering rights at Lord's last year – a mere £12,973, less even than the sale of match cards. Let me give you some idea of how much the contract is worth to the caterers. Last year Grand Met began negotiations with the MCC to renew the contract after 1987. The MCC understandably balked. Grand Met thereupon offered the MCC at least £100,000 a year for the rights alone, plus a percentage of the profits. And a new 10-year contract – not put out to tender – is about to be signed.

What a card

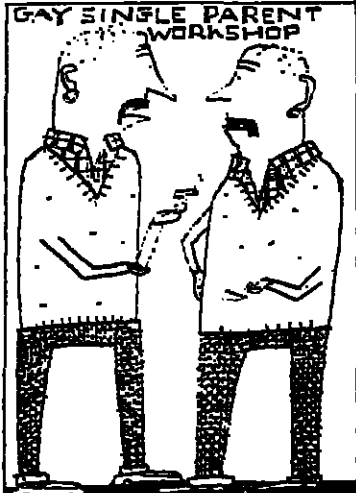
Wanted: a select committee to investigate the behaviour of other select committees. It could begin by establishing why four members of the defence committee swapped a finding trip to the US earlier this month, visited a Washington nightclub so down-market that cards on seats pronounced: "Customers are requested not to touch women dancing on the tables". It might then discover which joker, during a meeting with the Senate armed services committee, swapped the nightclub card for Conservative MP Michael Bates's name card and left it in full view of hawkish US Senator Barry Goldwater.

● Michael Cocks, under serious threat of defection at Bristol South, is having a party thrown at Westminster to celebrate his nine years as Labour's chief whip. Oh, dear. Since when does anyone celebrate nine years?

Enter the list

Dedicated Thatcherite backbencher Albert McQuarrie (pro-hanging, anti-abortion) flipped yesterday when I pointed out that his name appears alongside those of left-wing Labour MPs Terry Fields, Joan Maynard, Dave Nellist, Kevin Barron and Dennis Skinner as signatories to Early Day Motion 621. The motion, welcoming a half-day strike of school pupils as an "excellent vehicle" for drawing them towards the Labour movement. "How the hell did my name get on that?" asked McQuarrie, before rushing off to the tabling office to get it removed. The office is to correct its error today.

BARRY FANTONI



Gallery clique

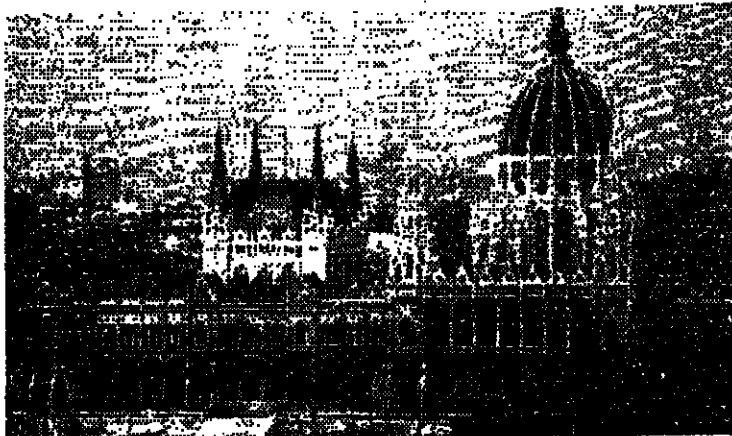
Architects James Stirling and Richard Meier are emerging as rivals to design the Stairway-funded replacement for the National Gallery's "carabuncle" extension. Jacob Rothschild, the new chairman of the gallery's trustees, was spotted last week guiding a brace of Stairway brothers round the architect's latest works in Germany – Stirling's Stadtschloss in Stuttgart, and Meier's Decorative Arts Museum in Frankfurt. Stirling's elegant stone building looks a better bet for Trafalgar Square than Meier's high-tech museum, which, one critic said, looked like "one washing machine after another". Meier, on the other hand, does have the advantage of being championed by his new consort, Princess Lee Radziwili, Jackie Kennedy's sister, who was heard pushing his suit only recently at Jacob Rothschild's dinner table.

No Ayer time

If the tree in the quad "continued to be" only when watched – what of the reputation of the man behind the theory, George Berkeley? Radio Three went through the motions of marking Berkeley's tercentenary last month by approaching the Oxford philosopher Freddie Ayer, who duly agreed to prepare a 45-minute talk on him. A few weeks later the BBC in Bristol wrote again to cancel; his head of talks, George Fischer, had decided that Berkeley's "tercentenary" (sic) was not important enough. Will Berkeley himself continue to be if his anniversary is unobserved by the BBC?

PHS

East bloc democracy – of a sort



Parliament in Budapest: a grandeur comparable to Westminster

Budapest "Degenerate idiot", "shoot him", "traitor", the crowd shouts while a bespectacled and bearded man, smartly dressed, attempts to talk of his country's future. The occasion: one of hundreds of constituency meetings in Hungary to determine who should stand for local councils and parliament, a limited attempt to stimulate democracy unique among members of the Warsaw Pact. The man: Gaspar Tamas, a prominent dissident who has provoked the authorities first by writing to *The Times* about the plight of Magyars in Romania, and now by standing for election against no less a figure than Hungary's foreign minister, Peter Varkonyi.

This ward of Budapest is well stocked with party members working for the city's bureaucracy, so Tamas's peppery reception is not unexpected. At an earlier selection meeting, his rhetoric had been drowned by a chorus of invitations for the dissidents to "get back to Transylvania". But at this meeting Tamas had brought up his big guns. One by one prominent writers stood up to deliver to a clearly interested audience an eloquent defence of their demands for reform.

First Miklos Horoszi, once described by a journalist as the perfect incarnation of a 19th century Magyar poet, spoke on the immorality of the country's wide differences in living standards.

The audience, thus softened, was then addressed by Gabor Demesky, imprisoned and beaten up last year for activities hostile to the state. A shy, rather gentle speaker, Demesky brought up the sensitive topic of human rights in Hungary, to the foreman minister's visible distaste.

If Hungary was a liberal country, he said, why were its prisons filled with Catholics (at present more than 250) for refusing, on grounds of conscience, to do military service? Why were dissidents' homes still being searched and their books confiscated and burnt?

There is good news from across the Atlantic for the anti-smoking industry in Britain, though rather thin. The difference between the American and British legal systems will prevent the ASH-fanatics and their friends from exploiting here the device at present being tested there by some enterprising lawyers. (On the whole, I am against mass murder. I rarely commit it myself, and often find myself quite out of sympathy with those who make a habit of it. One must not, however, be too dogmatic, and if the victims of the next general battle should be the American Bar I doubt if I would make more than a token protest. Perhaps we could compromise: there would be no general massacre, but a bounty could be paid, like that on the tails of grey squirrels, for anyone bringing an American lawyer's head, not necessarily smoked, to the appropriate authorities.)

The wheeze is simple. You bring an action against a tobacco company for causing the death of users of their products. What made me take particular notice of an item on the subject in *The Economist*, however, was a suggestion that lawsuits may now succeed, though similar pleas have been rejected in the past, because the courts are now willing to take a fundamentally different view of the matter of consumer responsibility.

Once, as a judge ruling in such a case put it, there was a reluctance to "render Elsie the cow liable for deaths brought on by cholesterol". The legal theory behind such reasoning is the one enshrined in the maxim which rules in the courts of this country: *volenti non fit injuria*. The thalidomide victims were entitled to massive compensation because the women taking it did not know, and had no means of finding out, that it was poison; no literate adult in his right mind can now plead that he is unaware of the dangers of smoking, so if he chooses to smoke he has brought his misfortunes upon his own lungs. A man who falls down the stairs because of a well-concealed hole in the carpet may claim damages for his broken leg; one who jumps merrily out of a window with a cry of "This is much quicker than the lift" is unlikely to be received with sympathy in the court when he enters it on crutches.

Naturally, the American lawyers think they have discovered an answer to this point. One of the pending cases concerns a man now dead who, it is argued (presumably with a straight face), was an addict of cigarettes; he was well aware of their effects, possibly fatal, but he couldn't help himself, so kindly come across with the ready. And it is here that credulity must take a stand, or at any rate I must.

Ten years on, the Vietnam war still exercises an almost mystical power over certain pop musicians. To mark the anniversary, Paul McCartney has released a single called 19, mixing commentary from a US television documentary with a driving disco beat. It is all a long way from Country Joe and the Fish's cynical 1960s singalong "And it's a one-two-three what are we fighting for?/Don't ask me – I don't give a damn/Next stop is Vietnam"; but the sentiment remains the same: all Vietnam songs are anti-war.

In contrast, nobody is releasing a single to mark VE Day. Curiously, Second World War revisionism seems largely confined to jittery politicians, hopelessly muddled as to what the tone of the official celebrations should be. Perhaps the most appropriate anthem would be Noel Coward's *Don't Let's Be Beasily Deceived*, with its truly prophetic verse: "We mustn't let them feel us / Or ever get / The feeling that we're cross with them / Or hate them. / Our future policy must be to restate them. . . . Its second chorus contains some sound advice: Let us treat them very kindly as we

have a tradition of – and aptitude for – parliamentary debate, something acknowledged by *The Times* 100 years ago. Their impressive parliament building dominates the Budapest skyline. The new electoral law is an attempt to rekindle this heritage and to give new scope to that spirit of competition introduced so successfully into the economy.

Remarkable though they may be, the events of the last few days should not be seen as heralding any significant changes. All the candidates, whether ministers or imprisoned writers, must accept the Communist Party programme and debate issues of personality rather than policies.

Hungarian MPs receive no salary, virtually no expenses and not even the usual perks of free telephone or secretarial help. Those who stand, and lose, will perhaps question whether the official consolation prize – the chance to be a reserve MP – is an adequate reward. Finding a minimum of 85,704 candidates for the parliamentary and local elections may not prove easy.

Clearly, as the meetings last week showed, for the dissidents the chance to air their grievances in

public is some sort of recompense, but the fact that even the most impressive among them were defeated – including their figurehead, Laszlo Rajk – is demoralizing. Rajk is the son of a former foreign minister executed by the Rakosi regime before 1956 but later rehabilitated in official party publications. An architect – unlike the eccentric poet who mainly comprises the dissident establishment – and a gifted speaker, he gives every impression that he could become a skilful politician.

Two years ago his home, which had become a regular meeting place for dissidents, was raided by the police and his *Samizdat* publications closed. Last week Rajk stood in a Budapest ward inhabited by few car-carrying members of the government bureaucracy.

His selection meeting was more crowded than any other in the city, with many constituents having to wait outside. British journalists who tried to enter were met with a byzantine list of requirements. Those who fulfilled them still failed to get in because officials claimed never to have heard of their newspapers.

Rajk's opponent was no one of any account and Rajk was expected to win. But, according to his supporters, the hall had been packed with party members two hours before the selection committee met. As there is no provision in the new electoral law for an independent counting of votes, Rajk's supporters felt they had been cheated. An appeal was lodged. Rajk, unlike his opponent, is philosophical about the likely outcome.

The exercise was not without value, however. It showed conclusively that however content ministers might be to undergo questioning once every five years, they were not yet ready to tolerate it in the plenary sessions of parliament.

Richard Bassett

circumstances, behave as though they are right. However certain a man may claim to be of the truth that our every action and its effects are predetermined and wholly outwith our control, he never steps off the pavement without looking to see if there is a bus coming. But the illogical nature of his belief does not prevent him applying it to others, and today's determinists are applying it more and more widely and ferociously. In its political form the application penalizes home ownership and prefers rented council-house helotry, hates small businesses and loves nationalized ones, insists on closed shops and cannot abide a man without a union card, above all is implacable in the retention of flat-rate benefits and the rejection of the principle of a direct contribution to these, for the moment we start differentiating between citizens, on the grounds that those who need more should get more and those who can pay more should pay more. We are making both lots of citizens into independent human beings instead of objects stamped out by a die in whatever quantities are desired.

I have always thought that the "no-fault" insurance principle (fit for its use in accident legislation, and there is pressure to extend it to motoring) is perhaps the clearest example of a benevolent idea with pernicious effects. Why should we not be obliged to look where we are going? Why should we not have to make good that which we have made worse? Why should we not be blamed when we are blameworthy, penalized when we have incurred penalties, compelled to pay when we have run up a bill?

Above all, why should we be relieved of all responsibility over our own lives? What are our lives for, if not to make or mar, regret or be content with? Who is here so base, asked Brutus, "that would be a bondman?" Alas, there are indeed some who wish to be slaves, and no lack of those who would oblige them by fastening shackles on their wrists. The trouble is that the men with the shackles wish to fasten them on the wrists of the rest of us, too, and they have already got quite a long way towards their goal. The man who has plausibly claiming damages because although he knew it was dangerous to smoke he couldn't help smoking is advancing their cause. He was entitled to do himself harm, and he took his entitlement; now the lawyers are arguing that although he backed an arson, he should have his money back with a good bit over. I hope they lose, but I wish I had as much confidence in the American judiciary as I have in bookmakers.

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Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Blame anyone or anything, but never yourself



Let us leave the American lawyers at this point, though readers who wish to pursue the study of them should reflect on the recent case in which a man in an American hotel was given the key to the wrong room at the reception desk, and opened the door to find a naked lady in what he thought was his bathroom; he was so startled that he jumped back, bumped his head on the door, brought a lawsuit and was awarded twenty thousand dollars. (Perhaps it is America's judges, rather than advocates who should be attended to next St Bartholomew's Eve.)

Let us also leave, though this will be harder, our own anti-smoking legions and their hectoring, bullying and general intolerance of those who do not share their tastes. Let us concentrate on the very important question that lies at the heart of this matter, which has nothing to do with lawyers or cigarettes.

Are we, or are we not, responsible for our own lives? When we act either than under duress, and in possession of the relevant facts,

should we or should we not be held to intend the likely consequences of our action? I say yes, and in doing so I am in the company of practically all mankind's philosophy, religion and law, but in so saying I am, I think, out of the company of the present *Zeitgeist* and its more vociferous admirers.

Those admirers have erected a ramshackle and fraudulent structure of belief which now casts its shadow over practically all modern life. The belief which the monstrous building houses is that we are not autonomous beings, with a mind, a will and even a soul, but the helpless playthings of our upbringing, our environment, our system of economic and political government. (Note that there is no mention of our heredity, and no longer much of Freud; the former is held not to exist at all, and the latter is under suspicion of propagating the wrong kind of determinism altogether.)

In all the argument, throughout the centuries, about free will, those who deny its reality never, in any

Hits that survived blitz and barrage

would a valued friend. We might send them out some bishops as a form of lease and lend. . . . A more popular number of the time, *Ind Russia Is Her Name*, failed to survive the Cold War, while Irving Berlin's hymn of praise to the special relationship has also been mercifully forgotten: *My British buddy, / We're as different as can be, / I like my coffee and rolls, and he likes his tea, / When the job is done and the war is won, / We'll be clasping hands across the sea.*

All overt war songs make one wince a little in peacetime, but by VE Day most of these had already disappeared. Dame Vera Lynn was the Forces' sweetheart precisely because she eschewed propaganda songs in favour of sentimental ballads of parted lovers and songs of hope for a better world. Most British hits of May 1945 were nostalgic love songs (*Every Time We Say Goodbye*, and *A Little on the Lonely Side*).

Initially, patriotic writers had answered the call with *God Bless You, Mr Chamberlain* and *We're Going to Hang Out the Washing on the Siegfried Line*. But these proved

to be some of the first casualties of the war. After Dunkirk, the public lost their appetite for over-optimistic jingoism.

Jimmy Kennedy's *Siegfried Line* lyric was really in the wrong war, its tone would have been ideally suited to 1914-18, when songs like *Belgium Put the Kibosh on the Kaiser* were turned out by the dozen. One number's closing line even anticipated Kennedy: *When we all go swimming in the Rhine, / We'll hang our clothes on Hindenburg's old line.*

In the Second World War most lyricists refused to descend to these depths, but in the Great War the power of the publishers was so great that many writers had no choice. One old-timer was once asked by an aggressive veteran: "Where were you in 1917?" "With Mills Music!" snapped the songwriter. This was active service of a particularly grueling kind.

In the Second World War (as in the First), it was Irving Berlin who did best. His biggest hits were such wistful (and enduring) ballads as *A Lovely Day Tomorrow* and *It's a Wonderful World*, but he also turned out innumerable army songs. Harry

Warren, asked why he'd never written any war songs, replied tartly: "Berlin had a non-interpolation clause."

British songs are supposed to be more homely and heartfelt than their slicker American counterparts. However, it's interesting to note that *There'll Be Bluebirds Over the White Cliffs of Dover*, for example, is actually an American song. So is *Goodbye*, by *Dill Dill*, originally written by Will D. Cobb and Paul Barnes for the Spanish-American War of 1918. To their disappointment the war ended early, but they shipped the song to London just in time for the Boer War.

Not all professional songwriters are so shameless. The Vietnam generation sneers at the naive morale-boosters of earlier wars, but as the old songs are heard once more on the VE Day anniversary, it's worth remembering that some writers believed every word. For *Great War*, George Asaf and Felix Powell wrote *Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit-Bag*. Powell genuinely believed that it had been "the war to end all wars". When his illusions were shattered in 1939, he committed suicide.

Mark Steyn

Roger Scruton

The fog spawned by Hobsbawm

A spectre is haunting the Labour Party – the spectre of Hobsbawm. All the powers of the old left are dancing to its sepulchral music. "Thatcherite Toryism", it chants, "is the enemy"; "comrades" must "mobilize" against the power which "wages the class struggle against the workers" and their "heroic trade union movement". All must engage in true "class politics", which has elsewhere raised the conflict with the bourgeoisie "to the level of armed struggle". All must join forces with the movement that has established, in our beloved Europe, "10 new states setting out to construct socialism".

Such is the language in which the communist professor, last active remnant of the Cambridge Apostles, sets out his programme for a broad socialist alliance (*The Guardian*, April 8). It is a language of the distant past – of those strife-torn years in Central Europe when emnity walked the streets of the capitals and spoke from the mouths of deluded demagogues.

Can it really be the case that Mr Kinnoch is listening to these ancestral voices? Can it really be that he is so ignorant of history – of the history that Professor Hobsbawm has devoted his life to rediscovering – as not to know what communists do to their allies at the hour of victory? Can he really be so insensitive to words as not to hear the sound of the tocsin, and know that it tolls for him?

Thatcherism is about to founder, Hobsbawm tells us, for the rats of the old ruling class are deserting the ship. How else is one to interpret the historic vote of Oxford University against its most distinguished alumnus? Few of those dons who packed the Senate to vote against her had ever been socialist. As everyone knows, Oxford is a bastion of Tory privilege.

If Thatcherism is really foundering, it is strange that we need so vast an alliance to ensure its destruction. But it is not only the theory that testifies to Hobsbawm's impotence. In all my experience of British universities I have rarely encountered a Tory voter least of all in Oxford. And since the character of the true Tory is to avoid public manifestations of immature sentiment, can one really be surprised when the lumpenintellectuals are able to pack a meeting at the university which has done so much to provide its spurious credentials?

But this weird perception of Oxford is only one small part of the nostalgic fantasy which Hobsbawm projects on to the screen of the present. Thatcherism, he tells us, "represents the feelings of social climbers and hard-faced people who have done well . . . out of free enterprise". Actually no more effective instrument of social climbing has ever been devised than the salon socialism of old Vienna, unless it be the common room socialism of Oxford.

As for those hard-faced people – should not Professor Hobsbawm look in a mirror? For has he not done rather well out of free enterprise, in a country where a professor, living securely on the back of an economy which he may devote his life to denigrating, earns £2,000 a month? In Poland – one of

those 10 favoured countries which are now "constructing socialism" – are university lectures starts with the equivalent of £25 a month, and on if he is actively "constructing socialism" in the ranks of the party can he ever hope to live like Professor Hobsbawm.

In the lands of "real socialism" however, where the new ruling class no longer feels obliged to desert its ship of government, the society of the top smells rather less pleasant than the society of fashionable London.

But of course, despite the heroic victory of the Polish proletariat (not to be confused with the recent defeat of the true working class) we are not to take Poland – or any other "actually existing" country – as of model for the future. In the spectre words: "As for the institutions of future socialist society, who can discern their shape in the fog of argument about them?"

Well, the fog is the spectre's creation – and a strategically useful one. For what if his allies discover the truth about the destination towards which he entices them? What if they discovered the real nature of a body politic with the blood of the workers – and of ever other class – so horribly spattered on its hands?

Perhaps they might see that the spectre has a case to answer. They might ask him, not merely how rich will suffer from his scheme, but how the poor will benefit. How will law and government be conducted? How will freedom of prosperity be secured? Most of all how does he propose to live with those who are not socialists, and whom he presently dismisses as "the enemy"?

Professor Hobsbawm once voiced some of the doubts that had caused few comrades to stray from the path of revolutionary rectitude, and came up with the following answer: "If it left 'may have to think more seriously about the new society. The does not make it any the less desirable or necessary." Ponder this, Mr Kinnoch, and you will begin to understand the meaning of this siren song. No matter that you don't know where you are going, just so long as you see that it is "necessary", and even "desirable" to go there.

Socialism is with us, and with us to stay. It is not for us to forbid its aspirations, or to deny power to those who share them. But it is wis to be sure that the people do recall support a policy that would do so much harm to them, and that this historic alliance with the workers including those who vote so persistently for the Thatcherite "enemy" – is not merely another device for transferring power to the intellectual Jacobin.

Those hard-faced people who exhort us only to destroy our way of life, and offer nothing but a fog of disputation in place of it, should certainly speak out. But let us hope that they will be heard, not in the Commons but in the common room, where social climbing is conducted with minimum damage to those who pay for it with their honest labour.

The author is editor of the *Salisbury Review*.

moreover . . . Miles Kington

All the news that's fit to repeat

Hello. This is Radio 4 and here is the news.

An expert says that Radio 4 can damage the brain. Princess Diana wears a pink dress and tiara to the opening of a fashion show. It will be a cool, showery day over most of Britain. Now the news in detail.

Last night a communications expert, Dr Brian Thoroughput, attacked the BBC for its news coverage on Radio 4, saying that very often one item could be expanded in such a way as to fill almost a whole news bulletin. He went on to say that this created expectations in a listener which were not fulfilled, causing what he called a mental equivalent of an empty stomach.

Here with a special report on Dr Thoroughput's extraordinary attack is our communications correspondent, Brian Hasgood.

Uninformative. Repetitive. Boring. Repetitive. These are just some of the adjectives used by Dr Brian Thoroughput, Professor of Communications at Brunel University, to describe the Radio 4 news format. He said last night that the Radio 4 habit of taking one news item and repeating it in as many different forms as possible created an impression that the listener was being given fresh information, whereas he was just being given the same bit of news over and over again.

Dr Thoroughput, who has been at Brunel University for almost three years, said that one typical trick was to introduce different voices on to the programme. After the news-reader had read the item twice, an expert might be called in, and then an on-the-spot recording of someone involved in the news item would follow.

Dr Thoroughput backed up his accusations with a detailed breakdown of what he called the Radio 4 mentality. Here's an on-the-spot interview with the professor, made after last night's attack on the media. "Radio 3 on the whole presents very good news bulletins, and of course the World Service's are admirable. Radio 1 and 2 really don't have long enough news bulletins to allow repetition. It's Radio 4 which is the main culprit, with endless repetition of whatever trivial item has been allowed to stray

into the number one spot. It's so trivial that we don't really realize it's happening."

"And just when you think you might be coming to the end of the item at last, the BBC springs another surprise, like introducing someone with a contrary viewpoint."

Here, to defend the BBC against the charges, is the Producer-General Bruce Denim.

"Of course there is a certain amount of repetition, but only enough to bring the facts home to the listener. In my opinion we are getting the balance just about right, think Dr Thoroughput has got it all wrong."

Bruce Denim. Now the rest of the news. Princess Diana appeared at a fashion show last night in Italy wearing a stunning pink dress and tiara. Here's our fashion correspondent, Dominique Harrod.

"Wearing a stunning pink dress with matching tiara, Princess Diana last night was the star of a top Italian show of new fashions, which she had been invited to open. Here is part of her speech."

"Hello, I am Princess Diana and I am wearing this stunning pink dress with tiara. It gives me great pleasure to declare this fashion show open. Now back to the studio."

Princess Diana. Forecasters say it will be a cool and showery day over most of Britain, and here's a forecaster to say it.

"Hello, there. What we can expect today, I think, is a cool day over most of Britain. This means it will be less warm than usual. If there are showers as well, and we expect there will be, it will also be wetter than usual. And the outlook, I'm afraid, is much the same."

Now the headlines again. An expert, wearing a pink suit and tiara, says that Radio 4 can damage the brain. Princess Diana, looking cool and showery, opens an Italian fashion show. And the forecast? Much the same. I'm afraid, now the headlines again. A cool pink expert has said that too many weather forecasts can give the mind damp rot. In Italy, Princess Diana said much the same, and time for a real programme.

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More serious
ie fog spawned
y Hobbsbaw

150



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234.

MUZZLED WATCHDOG

The National Council for Civil Liberties was born sectarian. By the evidence of its annual conference at the weekend that is how it will expire.

The NCCL has again become the vehicle of a party tendency. For its purposes the citizen's liberty is to be defined neither broadly, according to that historic stream of Whig principle that flows still beneath our day-to-day politics, nor popularly, based on that ineffable sense of a Briton's rights against wrong usage by the State or any other overbearing corporation. Instead, the NCCL is now the language of New Left fashion. In this the rights of certain favoured collectivities (pickets instructed by the National Union of Mineworkers) override any possessed by individual workers; and the possession of non-Caucasian skin has created a new generation of sweeping rights and imperatives. In its terminal confusion, do we simply say: NCCL, rest in peace?

The answer is no, not without strong regret. The power of the State, however ambitious Mrs. Thatcher's government has been about diminishing its intervention in economic life, is not withering away. New technology, that boon to the economy, opens

a new chapter in police methods: protective law is evolving but there remains an acute need for vigilance, and groups as sharp-eyed as the NCCL has been.

Abuse of power is no monopoly of the State. Individual freedom may be damaged by big companies, by international bureaucracy, by professional corporations like the law itself, and by trade unions. The need is not for some abstract definition of civil liberty in the modern age - oppression no longer bears the sharp lines of James II's visage and freedom cannot be summarized in a Bill of Rights. What is so often wanted is articulation of an individual case, concrete assistance, and this again has been one of the NCCL's worthy purposes.

The NCCL has always had a left-of-centre colouring and a willingness to gloss over and to forgive the authoritarianism of the Labour Party in aspects of economic and social life. Yet even in those terms, even hobbled as it has been since its 1984 vote to ignore the civil liberties of the National Front, the existence of the NCCL has provided a useful element of balance. It functions best as grit in the machine, an irritant of

chief police officers and directors of public prosecution, men too seldom irritated.

But the NCCL's disarray now makes it risible. It hovers at the point of organizational incompetence because, like many voluntary organizations of the left, it refuses to confront the syndicalist extravagances of its own staff. It appears stupid, because it will not learn some of the lessons inescapably thrown up by its own inquiry into the policing of the miners' strike - lessons about oppression and the denial of civil liberty by a trade union. It appears anachronistic because, having appointed an able centrist as its general secretary, it will not accept his remedies for its ineffectiveness.

Perhaps all is not lost. Perhaps Mr. Gostin, if he survives as general secretary, can mobilize (by means of a postal ballot) the huge majority of NCCL members who do not attend the annual meeting and reverse the weekend's votes. For the meantime, however, the NCCL must be counted the servant of an interest group, the trade unions, the value of its criticism lessened and its voice - part of a necessary chorus of organizations vigilant for freedom - muted to the point of silence.

ANOTHER BRIDGE BROKEN

The death of the *Rand Daily Mail* today marks more than the end of South Africa's most outstanding newspaper. The *Mail* provided one of the few bridges in the country between racial groups. More than half of its readers were black. It served as an important source of opposition to apartheid. Now the only English-language morning newspaper published in the industrial heartland of the Transvaal is *The Citizen* which was founded with government funds. At a time when South Africa is passing through one of the most turbulent periods in its post-war history, an important voice has been silenced, and the arena of political debate has been significantly narrowed. It is a sad day, therefore, not only for the well-being of the Press in South

Africa, but for the fortunes of a deeply troubled country.

For decades, the English-language Press in general and the *Rand Daily Mail* in particular have constituted a sizable thorn in the Government's side. Yet the irony is that the *Mail* has been killed, not at the hands of the Nationalist Government but as a result of a bitter internal struggle, between the paper's proprietors and its editorial staff. No wonder that President Botha has expressed his satisfaction.

The *Mail's* proprietors, South African Associated Newspapers, never felt comfortable about the paper's crusading role, and became even more disenchanted as a result of the mounting losses the paper incurred in recent years. Circulation declined because of the *Mail's* hostile

attitude to government policies; and advertisers, too, tended to steer clear, partly from dislike of the *Mail's* politics, partly because too many of its readers were blacks without the right kind of purchasing power.

The consequences of the *Mail's* closure will be far reaching. Other English-language newspapers will be more wary about taking up liberal causes. Journalists will be demoralized. The white public will become more complacent. Blacks will have even less faith in the ability of "white" institutions like the Press to play a constructive role in articulating their grievances. To Mr. Botha, the demise of the *Rand Daily Mail* shows how "a new spirit of national unity is taking control", of South Africa. It is a dangerous illusion.

A HEATH PLAN FOR LONDON

As spring ripens, it is not only dogs and joggers who appreciate London's parks. From Richmond Park to Wandsworth Common they are a public resort, tourist attraction and beneficial inheritance of the philanthropy and municipal self-confidence of earlier generations. As the Local Government Bill - the measure for the abolition of the Greater London Council - moves into committee this week, the fate of some of the capital's best-loved parks is worth the closest oversight of peers of all parties.

Attention focusses on Hampstead Heath and not because journalists and politicians live on its borders. The Heath is a model urban park from miraculously preserved arcadian dells by Kenwood to pitches and paddling pools at Parliament Hill Fields. As such it is rightly loved; used by people from all social strata and by dogs thoroughbred and mongrel. The Heath's brown-uniformed keepers show local government at its most benign. The future management of this GLC park matters.

What does the Government

propose? The Local Government Bill having passed the Commons, it is still unclear. The strict logic of the Government's overall plan for London leaves no doubt: the Heath's management should be divided between the three local authorities adjoining. And if parsimonious Barnet chooses to let the grass grow and the carefully sound-proofed paths around the Kenwood open air concert arena fall apart - that is local democracy. But the Government does not believe in logic for London. Mr. Patrick Jenkin, while not believing in the city of London, believes in pan-London facilities such as the Heath and has indicated his wish to see some sort of unified management. A candidate, he indicated last week, is the Corporation of the City of London.

Now the Corporation, amiable anachronism though the City is, is elected by no residents of Camden, Haringey or Barnet nor, in large measure, does it belong to the full-time residents of the Square Mile. Historic purchase makes the Corporation the manager of Epping Forest and Highgate Woods but to

suggest the City as the guardian of Hampstead Heath in the context of a measure advertised as "streamlining" government and promoting accountability beggars belief. Is the Government seriously suggesting that the commercial ratepayers of the City pay out for the Heath when the businesses of Holborn and the householders of Hampstead are excused? Only a most untimely spirit of municipal aggrandisement could have allowed the City Corporation even to contemplate this far-fetched plan.

Hampstead Heath is not the only important element of London life left high and dry by the haste and expedience of the Government's abolition proposals. More than one amendment will be offered in the next few days in the House of Lords for establishment of a slim but elected organ of London wide governance, capable of overseeing the administration of the fire and other services that cannot sensibly be performed by single boroughs. There, visible, accountable and paid for by Londoners lies the best future for Hampstead Heath.

The Soviet dilemma

From Sir Patrick Donner
Your leading article on the Soviet dilemma (April 22) is surely the most perceptive and well-informed published in this country for years.

Gorbachev may to some degree successfully reduce the level of corruption and incompetence inherent in the Soviet system, but he cannot change the system itself, which depends upon the secret police who have no intention of committing mass self-destruction. That is why the denial of human rights is an integral part of the Soviet system which could not exist without it.

You expose in illuminating detail the failure of Communism to deliver any acceptable standard of living, health, food, housing and other essentials. Its many acts of unprovoked aggression may advertise their military superiority in these areas. They also advertise the extension of human degradation, misery and poverty. But they can no longer hide the reality that this might can no longer be afforded in the long run.

Hence the vital importance of Western nuclear deterrents in the dangerous short run should be brought home to CND and all who pursue activities which coincide with the Soviet interest and thus threaten the survival of Christian civilisation itself.

Yours etc,
PATRICK DONNER,
Humbourne Park,
Whitchurch,
Hampshire,
April 22.

Why Bucks backs the teachers

From Mr Roger Parker-Jervis
Sir, In Buckinghamshire we have a maintained education service second to none in the country. We are proud of the results achieved in our schools by our teachers and need their help to improve standards continuously so that Buckinghamshire children will get good jobs in a technological age.

Since the last county council election four years ago the retail price index has risen by 26.7 per cent. Since April 1981, our teachers pay has risen by 18.3 per cent. It is certainly not madness which causes them to ask for more than the 4 per cent they have been offered.

It is the dotty and incomprehensible system of finance described by Dr Hulme (April 29) which is a creation of madness. Should it continue Buckinghamshire ratepayers will have to pay some 50 per cent more rates next year if our education standards are to survive.

Perhaps it is not poets but politicians who in their "youth begin in gladness. But thereof comes in the end despondency and madness".
Yours sincerely,
ROGER PARKER-JERVIS,
Estate Office,
Great Hampden,
Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire,
April 29.

Post haste

From Mr W. Cockburn
Sir, Your reader, Mrs Barbara Segal (April 25), is wrong to assume that letters with handwritten addresses will be adversely affected by the introduction of optical character recognition (OCR) machines in sorting offices.

Though OCR machines can read only typed or computer-printed addresses other letters will still be automatically sorted at speed at all stages, so long as they carry the postcode. OCR machines are an addition to current technology employed in sorting offices, not a substitute. However, the envelopes they are able to handle more than half of the Post Office's business, as the article pointed out.

Most of the remainder are suitable for our existing letter mechanisation equipment, which still relies on the postcode.

Letters with a handwritten postcode are handled by machines which automatically sort mail at a rate of up to 16,000 items an hour. Letters without postcodes will not necessarily be delayed, but they have to be sorted by hand, which is naturally slower.

Because of our increased use of mechanisation, which has cost £100m, the use of postcodes has never been more important and we hope our customers will respond accordingly.
Yours faithfully,
BILL COCKBURN,
Board member,
Royal Mail Operations,
Post Office Headquarters,
33 Grosvenor Place, SW1X 1PX
April 26.

Anzac Day

From Miss Penny Ritchie Calder
Sir, Dr John Laffin (April 25) may be reassured to know that the 70th anniversary of the Anzac landings at Gallipoli has not been overlooked. To mark the anniversary the Imperial War Museum has mounted a display of uniforms, relics, documents and photographs illustrating aspects of the ill-fated campaign, which will remain on show until August 5, 1985.

Yours faithfully,
PENNY RITCHIE CALDER,
Exhibitions Officer,
Imperial War Museum,
Lambeth Road, SE1,
April 25.

From Major-General R. S. N. Mans
Sir, I can assure Dr John Laffin that Anzac day is certainly not neglected in the village of Brockenhurst. Ninety-two New Zealand soldiers are buried in a special plot in the cemetery of St Nicholas Church; they died in the nearby military hospital.

Every year on the Sunday nearest to Anzac day the local Branch of the Royal British Legion organizes on behalf of the village a remembrance service for these gallant men. Wreaths are laid on the memorial and posies on all the graves. A member of the New Zealand Armed Forces is always an honoured guest for the service.

Brockenhurst will never forget the sacrifice at Gallipoli.
Yours sincerely,
ROWLEY MANS,
Kirk House,
Sway Road,
Brockenhurst,
Hampshire.

Exporting PWRs

From the Duke of Portland
Sir, As someone who has long been concerned about the missed opportunities for British industry in the export of reactor technology I would like to comment on some of the points raised by Mr Green (April 23).

Mr Green's doubts about export opportunities if Britain adopts the pressurised water reactor (PWR) system are at variance with views expressed by the British Nuclear Manufacturers' Association, Chairman of the Weir Group, in evidence at the Sizewell inquiry, also by Mr R. H. Campbell, Managing Director of Babcock Power, in his letter which you published on April 18.

Speaking at a seminar on the PWR held at Birmingham University on April 22 and 23 Mr Carlo Caso, President of Westinghouse Nuclear International, said that the international market for nuclear power was more active now than for many years and he could see no

Encroachment of the superstore

From Mr S. W. Martin
Sir, Your report (April 17), that Tesco is planning a massive expansion of its superstore chain appears to signal an acceleration of the shift away from small town-centre shops towards superstores on edge-of-town sites. It is important that the dangers of this trend should be fully appreciated before it is too late.

The most immediately apparent result of a new superstore is the loss of open land required for it and its parking for several hundred vehicles. In nearly all cases this will involve agricultural land rather than the re-use of a derelict site. The loss of green fields to large superstores, discount warehouses, showrooms and DIY shops has already spoilt the appearance to many fine towns in this country.

Equally important are the social implications of large superstores. Demand for food is relatively inelastic and the opening of such a store will not increase the total volume of foodstuffs sold in a given district. It is taken away from other shops and it is the small town-centre or street corner shops, where overheads are higher, that suffer most and are threatened with closure.

Since the *raison d'être* of superstores is their greater efficiency, the impact on employment, for example, is likely to be even higher than the relative share of the market lost would suggest. The effect on villages in a superstore's catchment area may be even more severe, leading to the closure of the only

shop and the consequent loss of postal facilities as well.

For historic towns like Shrewsbury, where the prosperity of the town centre is vital to the maintenance of its ancient fabric, any shift of commercial activity away from the centre is extremely worrying and the loss of profit for local firms in favour of a big national company is equally to be regretted.

The advocates of superstores will argue that they are merely absorbing demand from new housing estates. But even if this were true, is it desirable? Many people, particularly the elderly, do not drive cars and prefer to shop locally. Not only is this easier for them, but the local shopping centre, combining a small food shop with newsagent, chemist and other facilities, provides a community focus. The provision of such a focus is essential if modern housing estates are not to become spiritual deserts.

New superstores require planning permission and planning boroughs and district councils (including Shrewsbury) are aware of the dangers posed by edge-of-town superstores. But this is not enough when their decisions may be overturned on appeal. The dangers must be understood by civic societies, residents' associations, other amenity organisations concerned with the welfare of the district and, not least, by the public at large.

Yours faithfully,
S. W. MARTIN,
Woodmoor,
Rad Valley Gardens,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Far East factory farms

From Mrs Joanne Bower
Sir, A concerted attempt by Europe, North America and Australasia to revolutionise the "antiquated" farming systems of the Far East by introducing western technology of animal production (John Young, April 18) may not be in the true interests of the countries concerned.

The switch from fish to pork and poultry suggests the introduction of factory-farming with all its concomitant evils: environmental pollution, residues of drugs, hormones etc. in carcasses, and the extermination of the small farmer.

How are Japan's 5,000,000 farmers to be accommodated in this brave new world? Are we really in a position to despise those working holdings of 1.2 hectares, with their co-operative production and marketing systems, when one of our own problems is depopulation of the countryside? A country the size of Japan can ill afford to turn over her farming area to factories.

The scheme seems additionally

short-sighted in view of the necessity on account of the rising world population for conserving natural resources. Poultry and pig production on modern lines use food which is needed for people, and could feed far more than the comparatively few eating animal products.

It seems likely that the transfer of Western farm technology to the Far East may actually be a transfer of problems, and that a wiser policy might be to combine certain useful techniques with Japan's "medieval peasant economy" which has presumably been successful for several hundred years, and China's remarkable agriculture which has endured for forty centuries.

The boom in Western intensive farming has already passed its zenith, and the only countries which seem to be riding the current storm are those which have retained their multiplicity of small farms.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNE BOWER, Hon Secretary,
The Farm and Food Society,
4 Willford Way, NW11.

Separate entities

From Sir Richard O'Brien
Sir, When reporting my connection with the new Employment Institute recently, you mentioned that I am also Chairman of the Policy Studies Institute (PSI). That is correct, but the point I wish to make is that the Employment Institute and PSI are separate and have different objectives.

The Employment Institute is, like PSI, tied to no party, but it does have a particular view on what needs to be done to create jobs and exists to propagate that view. The PSI, on the other hand, is not attached to particular views about public policies. It has a 50-year tradition of disinterested and non-partisan research, which it will continue. It is independent and is not involved in the formation or operation of the new Employment Institute or in its campaign "Charter for Jobs".

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD O'BRIEN,
Chairman of Council,
Policy Studies Institute,
100 Park Village East, NW1.

Peacock lore

From Mr Arnold Whittick
Sir, In his interesting article (March 30) entitled "Vanity, thy name is not peacock", Mr Philip Howard dwells on the peacock as a symbol of vanity and pride. In this sense it has a weak tradition and it is only in comparatively recent times that it has this doubtful significance.

In ancient and medieval times it was one of the most important symbols of immortality and the resurrection by the supposed incorruptibility of its flesh and the analogy of the periodic renewal of its beautiful plumage. It appears on ancient Roman coins and medals and on early Christian and medieval tombs. It can be seen in the Roman catacombs and on many early Christian sarcophagi, a famous fifth-century example being that of Theodore, Bishop of Ravenna in the Basilica of St Apollinare in Classe, at Ravenna. In this sarcophagus two peacocks stand on either side of the

More pay for informers

From Lord Houghton of Sowerby, CH
Sir, Tax inspectors are forbidden by their oath of secrecy to become informers on the affairs of taxpayers, no matter how horrified they may be about what they know.

Yet the associations representing tax inspectors want greater financial inducements to be given to others to do what they have sworn never to do themselves (Family Money, April 20). I find this rather odd.

Moreover, what about informers against tax inspectors? Are they to be rewarded too? For years as a staff representative I resisted on their behalf not only anonymous letters being acted upon but allegations made by named persons whose identity the Inland Revenue refused to reveal.

To me, that makes this latest proposal by the inspectors to encourage more paid moles to aid their grip upon the public odder still. I am, etc.

HOUGHTON OF SOWERBY,
House of Lords,
April 22.

Cocoa confection

From Mr Kofi Akainyah
Sir, Please allow me to expose a falsehood in Lord Bauer's article (April 24). It is implied that cocoa was brought to the Gold Coast by the British. This was not so.

The first seeds were brought by Tetteh Quashie, a native of the Gold Coast from Fernando Po. Its development was encouraged by the Swiss missionaries and its profits reaped largely by cocoa brokers in Britain.

However, Britain did make a direct contribution. She created the produce marketing boards, which virtually destroyed the cocoa farmer.

But why am I writing all this? Lord Bauer knows it already; he has written it in his book, *Dissent on Development*.

Yours faithfully,
KOFI AKAINYAH,
55 Beech Avenue, W3,
April 24.

Hard to stomach

From Mr J. Forrest Penman
Sir, I have recently been in Crete and at a taverna called Samara, on the seashore at Khatia, the following delights were listed in the English translation of the Greek menu: Stuffed live livers; snish keppos; Grik salad; stewed peack.

At a restaurant in Omonia Square in Athens I could have had the capability to build AGRs will be retained until 1990 when it becomes clearer whether or not further AGRs will be ordered.
Yours faithfully,
PORTLAND,
House of Lords,
April 23.



ON THIS DAY

APRIL 30 1945

Our Special Correspondent was Christopher Lumby (1888-1946). For 33 years he was a Correspondent of The Times, and was service in practically every one of the capitals of Europe.

A DICTATOR'S END

FASCIST ENSIGN IN DEAD HAND
From Our Special Correspondent
MILAN, April 29
Mussolini with his mistress, Clara Petacci, and 12 members of his Cabinet were executed by partisans in a village on Lake Como yesterday morning, after being arrested in an attempt to cross the Swiss frontier. The bodies were brought to Milan last night.

A partisan knocked at my door early this morning to tell me the news. We drove out to the working-class quarter of Lezeto, and there were the bodies heaped together, with ghastly promiscuity in the open square under the same fence against which one year ago 15 partisans had been shot by their own countrymen, Italian Fascists. Mussolini's body lay across that of Petacci. In his dead hand had been placed the brass ensign of the Fascist Arditi.

With these 14 were also the bodies of Farinacci and Starace, two former general secretaries of the Fascist Party, and Teruzzi, former Minister of Colonies, who had been taken elsewhere and executed by partisans.

ALONE IN A CAR

Mussolini was caught yesterday at Dongo, Lake Como, driving by himself in a car with his uniform covered by a German greatcoat. He was driving a column of German cars to escape observation, but was recognized by the Italian customs guard.

The others were caught in a neighbouring village. They include Pavolini, Barzani, and other lesser lights in the Fascist world on whom Mussolini had to call in later days to staff his puppet Government. This is the first conspicuous example of no justly liberated Italy. Otherwise the partisans have been kept well under control by their leaders.

The opinion was expressed this morning by the partisan Commander-in-Chief, General Cadorna, son of the former chief of the Italian army, that the execution was a good thing as popular indignation against Fascists demanded some satisfaction and the risk of a protracted trial would have been taking place in Rome, was thus avoided.

Graziani, who with two other Fascist generals surrendered to an American captain at Cernobbio, also on Lake Como, is now in custody under guard in a villa in Milan. He is an American guard in the surrender of the Fascist Ligurian army to the allies.

According to an Associated Press telegram from Rome, our Correspondent was one of two correspondents who entered Milan ahead of the troops, and brought back the news of Mussolini's death to allied headquarters.

Measure for measure

From Dr C. J. Gibbins
Sir, As a practising scientist in the field of information technology, I feel appalled by the apparent recommendation of HM Inspectors of Schools that the logarithm no longer be taught, since it is "redundant".

May I, through your correspondence columns, point out to HM Inspectors of Schools that in the fields of electronics and communications (the so-called "sunrise" industries in which the present Government places so much confidence, not to say our salvation as a nation) which is perhaps more important than all others put together is the logarithm. The one single quantity (or unit) which all in these industries use every day of their professional lives is the decibel - a logarithm.

If our children are no longer taught the concept of logarithms in school then the future looks bleak indeed. We have become, as Mr Lawson recently envisaged, a service nation a nation of waiters and waitresses, devoid of the innovation for which we were once renowned. Yours despairingly,
C. J. GIBBINS,
15 Willow Tree Close,
Shippon, Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Exporting PWRs

From the Duke of Portland
Sir, As someone who has long been concerned about the missed opportunities for British industry in the export of reactor technology I would like to comment on some of the points raised by Mr Green (April 23).

Mr Green's doubts about export opportunities if Britain adopts the pressurised water reactor (PWR) system are at variance with views expressed by the British Nuclear Manufacturers' Association, Chairman of the Weir Group, in evidence at the Sizewell inquiry, also by Mr R. H. Campbell, Managing Director of Babcock Power, in his letter which you published on April 18.

Speaking at a seminar on the PWR held at Birmingham University on April 22 and 23 Mr Carlo Caso, President of Westinghouse Nuclear International, said that the international market for nuclear power was more active now than for many years and he could see no

reason why UK companies could not obtain an early involvement in the export field for component packages.

He stressed that the need for international finance dictated that Westinghouse and the British manufacturer would normally be partners, rather than competitors, in other countries. I believe that substantial opportunities will only arise if Sizewell B gets consent.

Mr Green may not be aware of the considerable improvements in the competitive components will be brought in from abroad.

If UK firms can provide so much of the equipment for Sizewell B there seems to be every reason to expect, if the right credit arrangements are available, that they can compete successfully for overseas

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Harvey-Jones sets sights on £10 a share farewell

John Harvey-Jones, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, believes the company's shares should crack the £10 level before his term of office is up in two years. In answer to a shareholder's exhortation to push the share price higher at yesterday's annual meeting, Mr Harvey-Jones said £10 had long been a target of his. He also felt ICI's share price was more likely to remain strong than the shares of its competitors, because ICI was now in better shape than its competitors to withstand the vagaries of business downturns. Sadly, he said, ICI may have to demonstrate that new-found resilience before the end of his chairmanship.

The stock market has not been over-cooperative with Mr Harvey-Jones' ambitions of late, possibly because it too scents "vagaries" ahead. Last week the shares lost 20p - they were 744p yesterday - after disappointment with ICI's first quarter results. Although profits were 9 per cent ahead, a bit more had been expected. Full-year profits are expected to be only about 5 per cent higher and are widely forecast to fall slightly in 1986.

The rating of ICI is at a near 30 per cent discount to the market on 1985 forecast earnings, indicating a deep-rooted fear of the coming downturn even though ICI is on most stockbrokers' buy lists. It also indicates that Mr Harvey-Jones's message, preached with great eloquence yesterday, that ICI should no longer be judged by what it used to be but by what it was becoming, has yet to reach a wide audience.

The company is substantially more proof against cyclical downturn than it has ever been, said the chairman, both because it has its eggs spread in more baskets and because there has been a shift in the source of profits away from the cyclical petrochemicals, plastics and general chemicals side to pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals. It is never possible to build a business totally invulnerable to all economic dislocation - volatility of exchange rates is one important reason why not - but ICI is a significantly different company from the one that was knocked sideways by the recession of 1980 and 1981.

Mr Harvey-Jones has certainly made enormous strides in the three years of his chairmanship, bringing profits up from £259 million in 1982 to £1,034 million last year and the shares from a 1982 low of 62p to a high this year of 880p. He intends to be just as effective in his remaining two years, allocating a bigger proportion of resources in future to new business development and making sure he ICI's world-wide network is made to reduce the maximum competitive advantage. Nobody who is restricted to a purely regional market has any hope of staying up with the leaders.

Mr Harvey-Jones has put ICI back among the world leaders in the chemicals and pharmaceutical industries. In time that achievement will be recognized, both inside the stock market and beyond.

Ambiguity in the rules of revolution

Friday is the next important date in the Stock Exchange Revolutionary calendar; it is the first deadline for applications to the bank of England from would-be market makers in gilt-edged securities under the new regime (see page 23). Meanwhile the formidable task continues of rewriting many of the rules by which Stock Exchange members and the investment community generally have lived and largely prospered.

Many of the issues involved are fundamental, not least the regulation of conflicts of interest in a market place where the agency principle, on which a real deal of the Stock Exchange's reputation for honest dealing is based, will have given way to "dual capacity".

Conflicts of interest and their resolution is the subject of a carefully thought out paper put to the Stock Exchange Council by Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the three-headed giant destined to play a leading role in the market of the future. Comments on it here (April 23) prompted John Robertson, senior partner of Wedd, Furlacher and a Stock Exchange deputy chairman, to write:

"You say that BZW is 'pleading that there should be a dilution of the proposed obligation to act in the clients' best interest'. This is not true. What we are saying is that the Stock Exchange proposal in this aspect which 'deliberately' discriminates against the fair-weather market-making activities of broker-dealers,

and favours the registered market-makers who are committed to making a continuous market in a stock, regardless of market conditions' is right.

"On the other hand, the Government's White Paper which suggests that 'no investment business should deal with a client from its own account or book unless this results in better terms for the client' is wrong. This requirement for an organization with a market-making arm to deal at a better price than is available elsewhere would unreasonably inhibit dual capacity organizations from providing increased liquidity...."

Mr Robertson writes with a clarity and Unambiguity, which BZW confesses not to find in the present draft of the relevant Stock Exchange rule (3.3.2.). According to the BZW paper:

"The intention of the rule is to force broker-dealers when acting as a principal (fair weather market-makers) to offer a better price than registered market-makers. This makes it worthwhile to be a registered market maker... As phrased however, the rule could require BZW's market-maker to make a better price than any other market-maker if it is to satisfy an order placed with the BZW retail arm."

As BZW believes "this must be contrary to the intention," it asks that it should be changed "specifically to exclude a market-maker within a conglomerate from having to make a better price than other market-makers when satisfying an order from the same conglomerate's retail arm."

If it is simply a matter of improved drafting to remove ambiguity, then there should be no problem: BZW and the Stock Exchange Council are at one on this point. Mr Robertson indeed makes the general point that the Stock Exchange's own paper "is, in the main, an excellent document guiding us towards the establishment of proper investor protection."

That perhaps is a not surprising, but no less valid, judgment coming as it does from a deputy-chairman of the council. However, it would not be helpful for anyone in the Stock Exchange to overestimate the degree of harmony among the various revolutionaries. Within BZW itself the banking eye seems to read the score with a more critical eye than the other sections of the ensemble.

Dollar in danger of losing friends

Since the dollar reached the dizzy heights of DM3.47 against the mark two months ago, pushing the pound down to within a whisker of parity in the process, the foreign exchanges have been telling a rather confused story. Yesterday, the pound gained 1.5 cents to \$1.2297 in trading.

The dollar has come down, occasionally very fast, but it has had one partial recovery where its climb was as spectacular as its earlier drop.

The question remains of whether the real dollar correction has begun. The economists at American Express, in the latest Amex Bank Review, think that the prospect of a "hard landing" or crash for the dollar is closer.

By a hard landing, Amex means a drop from the present level of around DM3.10 to under DM2 within a couple of years. Some of this may represent an overshoot downwards, with the rate eventually settling at about DM2.30.

America's external financial debt is on course to reach \$500 billion by the end of this year, or around 125 per cent of exports. The current account deficit, expected to hit \$150 billion this year, means that at least \$100 billion a year is being added to US debt.

However, the dollar has so far proved to be relatively immune from the realities implied by large federal budget deficits and current account imbalances. Why should this state of affairs not continue? After all, America has borrowed entirely in dollars, so its problem will not be a lack of foreign exchange.

It is, in fact precisely that which could cause a loss of confidence in the dollar. The current account is seen as forcing corrective action on the Americans. This could be achieved in one of two ways: either by imposing a recession on the economy or by loosening the monetary reins in order to reduce the real value of debt.

As early as next year, the Americans could face a choice between recession and high inflation. Before that happens, the markets could have made the decision for them by deserting the dollar.

Westland to fight £89m bid from new Bristow company

By Judith Huntley

Bristow Rotocraft, a new company backed by Mr Alan Bristow, the chairman of Bristow Helicopters, yesterday made a full-scale, £88.93 million bid for Westland, the troubled helicopter company based in Yeovil, Somerset.

The move, which is to be "vigorously opposed" by Westland, came only hours after it announced its intention to float its Technologies Group to shareholders and reduce the company's exposure to vulnerable government contracts.

The Westland statement had all the hallmarks of a company determined to fight any bid.

Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank putting the bid together for Bristow Rotocraft, has obtained £60 million of backing for the new company

from institutional investors. Mr Bristow, who is due to retire from Bristow Helicopters soon, will be putting up £8 million. The remaining £52 million will come from Kleinwort Benson. Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, Allied Unit Trusts, the M & G Recovery Fund, Montagu Investment Management, the Fleming Mercantile Investment Trust and Investors in Industry (3), among others.

The new company which will not obtain a listing unless the bid is successful, is offering one of its shares for every Westland share, valued at 150p.

Bristow Rotocraft already owns 0.6 per cent of Westland. If the offer goes unconditional, Westland shareholders who accept the terms of the bid will be able to buy a total of 10

million shares in the new company, 25 per cent of its equity, at 150p per share. Westland's shares were down 1p at 140p last night.

Westland's shareholders face the prospect of deciding whether to go for a new company chaired by Mr Bristow, who successfully built up his own company but has yet to outline his strategy, or whether to hold on to their shares in the hope that Westland's board will resurrect the company.

Westland suffered two serious blows recently.

The Indian Government is likely to cancel a £65 million contract for civil helicopters and the British Government may not proceed with £500 million of military helicopters. Westland's board is telling

shareholders that it believes its own strategy for the company is in their best interests. It will be writing to them telling them to reject the offer.

Its strategy is to reorientate the group away from dependence on uncertain markets such as government contracts. And it intends, in conjunction with Schroder Wagg, its merchant bank, to float off the profitable Technologies Group, which made £10.2 million of profits last year.

Bristow Rotocraft is keen to exploit the potential of the Technologies Group.

The proposed takeover of Westland provoked an immediate and hostile response from the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs.

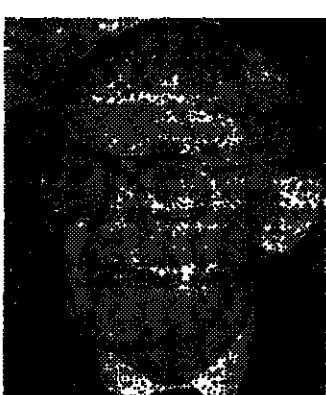
'No decision' on British Gas

By Jonathan Davis
Business Correspondent

The Government's hopes of meeting its target of raising £7,000 million from asset sales over the next three years will be substantially enhanced if, as is now expected, it pushes through legislation making possible the sale of British Gas before the next general election.

The official line from the Department of Energy yesterday continued to be that no decision about selling the corporation has been made. The cabinet is expected to consider the matter soon, with the differences between the department and the Treasury about how best the sale might be achieved still to be resolved.

Any sale would be unlikely before 1987, and the chances of it actually occurring before the next election are regarded by many in Whitehall as slim. Having the powers in reserve would undoubtedly give the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson,



Sir Austin Pearce: all clear for BAE sale

much greater flexibility in meeting his asset sale targets, however.

The targets have been steadily revised upwards in the last 18 months, with Mr Lawson now expecting to raise at least £2,350 million each year for the next three years from the programme.

The British Aerospace share sale, which takes place this week, will make the first contribution - at least £350 million - to this year's total.

The final obstacle to the British Aerospace sale was cleared yesterday when shareholders approved the necessary changes in the articles of association at an extraordinary general meeting presided over by the chairman, Sir Austin Pearce.

The delayed British Airways flotation could become a reality again soon, with the airline's latest attempt to secure an out-of-court settlement to the Laker litigation which forced the Government to miss its target date earlier this year. A settlement could be announced this week.

The Government is also keeping open the option of selling further chunks of shares in either BP or Britoil when the timing restrictions laid down in the last government offers expire in the autumn.

Talbex and Yorkgreen may merge

By Jeremy Warner

Mr David Green plans to merge the two quoted companies of which he is chairman, Talbex and Yorkgreen Investments, to create a new group with a stock market value of £2.6 million.

Talbex, an industrial holding company with interests in aerosol products, chemicals and rubber mouldings, is offering two of its shares for every Yorkgreen share.

Yorkgreen's main business is advertising contracting but it also has interest in lighting products and United States oil and gas.

Independent directors at Yorkgreen have yet to decide whether the terms are fair and reasonable and what would be done with the company's 10 per cent share stake in Talbex should the offer succeed.

Mr Green, a Northumberland businessman, said the enlarged group would have "improved stability and standing, providing greater opportunity for expansion and growth".

He also said there would be significant savings in administrative costs while the combined asset base and profitability of the two companies would create wider access to financial resources and enable existing financial resources to be used more effectively.

Mr Green and his immediate family own more than 18 per cent of Yorkgreen's share and 14.7 per cent of Talbex.

On the stock market, Yorkgreen's shares dropped 3p to 13p on news of the bid, which values them at only 14p each. Talbex recently announced half-year pretax profits of £82,000, while in the half-year to April 1984, Yorkgreen made £1.3 million in profits.

Oil tankers fuelled by stolen cargo

By John Lawless

Some super-tankers are being powered by oil stolen from their cargo holds, a London conference on maritime fraud was told yesterday.

And because crude oil has a much lower flashpoint than fuel oil, these vessels are running a higher risk of explosions, Mr Eric Ellen, head of the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), said.

Mr Ellen said he had evidence of one vessel that had not taken on its own fuel oil in two years. He said the crew had presented him with a tape-recording in which the owner said: "This is the only way if we want to continue in business".

The IMB has investigated such thefts and concludes that the illicit transfer of low flashpoint crude oil from cargo tanks for burning as fuel is a matter that has caused some considerable concern during the last two years.

The dangers of such thefts were highlighted by an accident in a ship repair yard, when an explosion killed 10 workmen and injured 28.

The explosion happened after crude oil leaked from a cargo tank into a tank for fuel oil, where "it floated on top of the heavier fuel oil". When the two were transferred to other tanks, "hydrocarbon vapours had escaped into the engine room where they were ignited by an oxyacetylene torch being used for repair work".

Mr Ellen said shipowners steal crude oil by installing illegal piping systems.

"The systematic theft by tanker operators of small percentages of cargo oil are made easier by the continuing inaccuracy in the measurement of large quantities of oil during loading and unloading," the IMB report says.

Mr Ellen stressed that crude oil thefts represent only a fraction of the maritime frauds, now estimated to cost \$13 billion a year. Many result from bogus paperwork, or a simple failure by buyers to carry out checks on suppliers.

Swire properties raises £22m with office sale

By Our Commercial Property Correspondent

Swire Properties, the wholly owned subsidiary of Swire Pacific, has sold its 100,000 sq ft office building, Sutherland House in Hong Kong's central district to what are believed to be Filipino interests for HK\$210 million (£22.17 million).

The company says the price represents a very substantial appreciation over the acquisition cost in 1977. It has also raised HK\$131.5 million from residential sales in Taikoo Shing.

Swire says the reason for the Sutherland House sale is the

continuing policy of sorting out its portfolio.

The money will be useful to finance the company's development of the former Victoria Barracks site in Hong Kong for which it paid HK\$703 million. The site will be developed with offices, retail and residential space and several hotel operators are keen to build there.

Victoria Barracks was owned by the Government and was put on the market just as confidence in the future of the colony was beginning to return. The site was expected to realize between HK\$400 million and HK\$600 million.

Lotus profit rises on higher sales

By Ian Griffiths

A 43 per cent increase in the number of cars sold and a significant improvement from engineering consultancy sales helped the Group Lotus Car Companies to raise tax profits to £476,000 in 1984, up from £275,000. Turnover rose from £12.8 million to £3.8 million.

Once again there is no dividend but payments may be made in the current year which would be 12 months ahead of the company's predictions.

The number of cars sold in Britain rose from 383 to 547 in 1984 when there was a slight lull in the specialist car market. Overseas sales also rose, although the strength of the dollar did not benefit the up's US sales.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	988.5 (-2.4)
FT-A All Share	N/A
FT Govt Securities	81.30 (+0.11)
FT-SE 100	1,292.9 (-2.4)
Bargains 28,573	
Datastream USM	112.34 (+0.62)
New York	
Dow Jones	1,272.96 (-2.21)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	closed
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1,497.97 (+3.12)
Amsterdam	210.6 (+0.5)
Sydney AO	888.5 (-5.6)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1,230.1 (+5.6)
Brussels	
General	229.83 (-4.84)
Paris CAC	215.4 (-0.1)
Zurich	
SKA General	346.50 (+1.50)

GOLD

London (gold)	\$323.25-\$323.75
Am \$323.25-\$323.75	(2263)
2005.50	
New York	
Comex \$323.85	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Nell & Spencer	30 +6
Claydon Son Higgs	103 +20
Higsons Brewery	165 +29
York Trailer	35 +4
VW Tharmax	88 +10
Redfern Glass	85 +9
Erskine House	90 +10
Kingsley & Forest	81 +6
Bolton Textile	21 +2
Tranwood Gp	11 +1
Sasaua Romana	35 +3
Sisters Food Prod	61 +5
Dale Electric Int	74 +6
H. Samuel A	89 +7
Rolle & Noin Comp	131 +10
Textured Jersey	81 +6
Carpet Int	57 1/2 +5
Kwik Fit Hlds	42 +3

FALLS:	
Howard Machinery	10 -1 1/2
Interflow Vid	7 -1
Resource Tech	38 -3
Wadkin	123 -12
Harold Ingram	105 -10

CURRENCIES

London:	
£1.2297 (+0.0152)	
DM 3.2825 (+0.0187)	
SwFr 3.2140 (+0.0390)	
FFr 11.6750 (+0.0550)	
Yen 210.90 (+3.74)	
£ Index: 77.5 (+0.5)	
New York:	
£1.2305	
DM 3.1095 (+0.0)	
S Index: 147.3 (unchanged)	
ECU: £0.582862	
SDR: £0.820358	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 12 1/2 - 12 3/4	3-month
Interbank 12 1/2 - 12 3/4	3-month
3-month eligible bills 12 1/2 - 12 3/4	buying rate
Prime Rate 10.50%	
Federal Funds 8 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills 0.00%	
Long bond 9 3/4% - 9 1/2%	

FROM THE STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN, P.J. GRANT

"I am pleased to announce yet another successful year."

Record profits

"...it is the strength of new business in recent years which has enabled the Group once again to produce record profits attributable to shareholders of some £11.7m, an increase of 21%..."

Dividend of 20%

"...a total of 19.78p per share... represents an increase of 20% over the dividend for 1983."

New business success

"Single premiums received were well up and it was particularly gratifying that our new annual premium business showed an increase of 3% over 1983, a year which itself recorded an exceptionally high increase."

Pensions opportunities

"...I would like to emphasise the importance the Government is placing on portable pensions and the



unrivalled position of Life Offices to provide appropriate schemes... We are confident that we have the expertise and shall have the products to meet the challenges and opportunities..."

New developments

"...a unit trust management operation... will be launched in May of this year. Further work is in hand to expand our investment management services..."

"The development of the direct sales organisation has been a great success."

Future growth

"...I am confident that the strategy of broadening the spread of our operations... will strengthen the base upon which future growth will be founded."

For a copy of the 1984 Report & Accounts of one of the country's most successful life offices, contact:- Alan Bell, Sun Life Assurance Society plc, 107 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DU. Telephone 01-606 7788.

A major force in British Life for 175 years

COMMODITIES

10-13 disc	1.0000-1.0020
14-19 disc	2.2220-2.2240
20-40 prem	2.4810-2.4850
21-40 disc	0.6540-0.8590
51-60 prem	1.3675-1.3690
61-70 disc	9.02-9.03
71-80 prem	8.57-8.58
81-90 disc	11.29-11.24
91-100 prem	3.1135-3.1150
101-110 disc	2.6120-2.6150
111-120 prem	3.3135-3.3160
121-130 disc	9.5075-9.5125
131-140 prem	252.65-252.70
1984-1987	1.984-1.987
52.55-62.80	52.55-62.80
7.7780-7.7800	7.7780-7.7800
178-179	178-179
174.50-174.90	174.50-174.90
21.94-21.97	21.94-21.97

[illegible][illegible]

Securities," by tender.

هكذا من الأصل

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Turmoil over pensions future gives boost to life assurance shares

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Officials at the Department of Health and Social Security said at the Treasury might have double with their figures, but stock market pundits quickly noted the plus side of proposed changes in the pension system yesterday.

While the Government was busy with its figures on the benefits of abolishing the Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Erps), Throgmorton rectified the error by a possible 11 million people.

Secare International, the nursing home and sheltered housing business born out of the shell of Edward Jones building, is making remarkable progress, helped by acquisitions. Profits for last year will be £100,000 and the current year's figure could be more than £50,000. The share was changed at 36p.

Life assurance companies ready to provide pensions for 12 million people, taking in well over £4 billion in premiums in 1983, the last full recorded year. Add to that potential new business which would follow abolition of Erps, and the market may see bumper growth of profits ahead for life assurance companies.

Share prices in the sector reflected the sums. Gains of up to 22p were scattered across the list, with favourites such as Legal & General, Pearl Assurance and Prudential Assurance owing most benefit. Sun Life Assurance was ex-dividend yesterday and would normally see its shares dip at such a time, but the close the Sun price is unchanged at 827p.

Some analysts have been looking at prospects for many years now, and had already completed their buying. Wood, Mackenzie, a leading broking firm, published its survey of the sector yesterday, coinciding with the market's latest burst of enthusiasm for such shares.

Wood, Mackenzie strongly recommends Legal & General and the others, and admits to having been aggressive buyers of those stocks in recent days. The firm is quickly joined by other City firms in the same frame of mind.

BAT Industries, which bought the Eagle Star insurance business last year and Hambro Life Assurance this year, felt the benefit of the optimism for private pensions later in the day. The shares began 12p lower, but the price recovered much of the lost ground. By the close, BATs was 7p down at 18p.

American buying of BAT shares appears to have halted for a time, but the market is acting itself for another US onslaught in the stock. BAT is believed to be planning a roadshow trip across the US, displaying its wares to American

analysts. The usual response to such a tour is a bout of buying by US investors.

The BAT report and accounts were also being delivered to current investors on Saturday and yesterday, providing another factor in the trade seen in the shares. Elsewhere among leading shares, there was little action, as the stock market continued to rely on special situations for a source of business. At the end of the day the FT 30 index had slipped just 2.4 points lower to 968.5, and the FT-SE 100-share market showed a similar loss, down to 1292.9.

Government stocks had a good day, encouraged by the much firmer pound. At one time gains extended to 2½, and the Government Broker was able to exhaust the Treasury 11½ per cent 2001/4 mini-lap issued last week.

Among blue chips Imperial Chemical Industries was shaved 3p to 744p on the shareholders' meeting statement and British Aerospace gave up 8p to 400p ahead of details of the Government sell-off. The market expects an offer price of 380p in two instalments. Westland the helicopter group, closed down 1p on the Bristol-led consortium bid.

Birmingham Mint gained 3p to 211p as College Retirement Fund, an American institutional investor, confirmed that it had 7 per cent of the capital.

Berham Group, which last week announced a £582,000 profit against a £230,000 loss, gained 5p to 538p as a block of shares was absorbed by the market.

Barrat Developments, up 6p to 90p, again reflected an enthusiastic City lunch. The civil engineer French Kier gained 6p to 127p on its 14 per cent profits improvement and Simon Engineering advanced 8p to 254p on its 18 per cent profits gain. Haden fell 12p to 306p awaiting Trealgar House bid developments.

Higsons Brewery, the Liverpool group, was the star of the beverage. Strong on Friday, it surged ahead 39p to 175p at one time on persistent buying. But the company dampened speculation.

A statement said it was not aware of any reason for the price movement which "apparently reflects limited purchases in a narrow market".

Higsons, which closed to 165p on the statement, has found the going difficult because of the depressed conditions on the Mersey. But it is now brewing its own lager which is expected to flow through to current year profits.

Greene King, the East Anglian brewery thought by some to be a takeover candidate, rose 2p to 158p.

The USM newcomer, Moorgate Group, placed at 120p, romped ahead to 145p. Wyko Group had a more subdued debut, touching 7p from its 68p placing level.

Fergabrook, another USM stock which last week reported an eight-fold profit increase to £2.58 million, held at 86p.

Bisgood Bishop, the jobber which deals in all USM stocks, yesterday changed its name to County Bisgood, reflecting its link with National Westminster Bank. The jobber is extending its USM operations from three to four sections.

Persimmon, the building group which achieved a full listing, was stuck at around 110p offer for sale level.

Pentland Industries, the running shoe group, continued to score from the recent favourable circular from Mar-

gets and Addenbrooke, the broker, it surged 45p to a new 730p peak.

Habitat Mothercare, the furnishings to children's wear group led by Sir Terence Conran, moved sharply higher, rising 20p to 374p in a stores sector still enlivened by takeover talk.

One factor in the advance was a "buy" note issued by the new retailing analysis team at Wood, Mackenzie. The firm pinched the analysts from Capel-Cure Myers earlier in the year, and this was their first action.

The City men say Habitat's problems overseas are being corrected and that "the Conran empire should be back, on course this year". In February, the Habitat share price was knocked by worries of bigger than expected losses on the way from the group's American businesses.

There is also some stock market relief that Burton Group is now favourite to bid for Debenhams, instead of Habitat. And there is also talk that Habitat itself may be a takeover target - again, Burton is spoken of as a potential bidder.

Meanwhile, the Debenhams share price rose another 5p to 280p as the City waits for bid action. At Bentalls, another though smaller department

store chain, the share price gained 4p to 99p, despite going ex-dividend. The South-East-based group still benefits from a City rethink on its asset value.

J Mezzies benefited from its 30 per cent rise in profits, the shares gaining 15p to 291p, and Woolworths was also on the up and up in sympathy with the sector. Woolies shares jumped 16p to 830p. Ward White shares also continue to find followers, and the price rose another 8p to 278p.

Cable House Properties, which moved from the USM to full market last autumn, should achieve profits of more than £850,000 in the year to the end of June. Last year the group, which is anxious to expand, made £671,000. The shares, held at 98p.

On the oils pitches, share prices drifted pennies lower during most of the day, but late trade brought back some buyers and there were improvements in the prices of leading companies.

Among insurance brokers, Hogg Robinson came in for yet another speculative run, at one time standing 30p higher at 302p. Its rival, C. E. Heath, was one rumoured bidder. American Express was another. Nimslo, the 3-D camera

US takes a tougher stand against dollar controls

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The Reagan Administration yesterday firmly rejected growing demands for currency reforms. At a briefing in advance of the Bonn economic summit it appeared to harden its position on the dollar, and Mr Baker, the Treasury Secretary, restated an early Administration position that it supports intervention to control the erratic dollar only in extreme cases.

Mr Baker's statement was regarded as a clear signal that an agreement the US made last January to intervene more readily on markets to control the dollar was not Administration policy now. "I do not think the policy changed in January and if it did, we have changed it back", Mr Baker said. The agreement, at the request of Britain, was made when the pound was plummet-

ing and the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, was under strong political pressure. At the same time, despite opposition from the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, as well as Japan and West Germany, Mr Baker said the US Administration still intended to press other nations at the summit to stimulate their economies to "take up the slack" created by flagging US growth.

ESTATES AND GENERAL INVESTMENTS P.L.C.

Property Investment and Development

RECORD PROFIT FOR 1984

- * Record profit before taxation increased by 15% to £1.27m
- * Gross investment rental increased by 14% to £2.13m
- * Net investment rental increased by 17%
- * Dividend increased by 9.5% to 2.3p
- * Ninth consecutive increase in dividend
- * Net assets per ordinary stock unit increased from 122p to 136p

Copies of the annual report available from the Secretary, 51 Green Street, Mayfair, London W1Y 3RH

Applying for shares in British Aerospace?



The Prospectus will appear in the national press later this week.

Base Lending Rates	
ABN Bank	12½%
Adam & Company	12½%
Barclays	12½%
BTCL	12½%
Citibank Savings	11½%
Consolidated Credit	13½%
Continental Trust	12½%
C. Hoare & Co	12½%
Lloyds Bank	12½%
Midland Bank	12½%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%
Citibank NA	12½%

The 147th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of MEMBERS of THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION will be held on TUESDAY 21st May, 1985 at 12 noon in the HEAD OFFICE, 6 ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH EH2 2YA

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from this address.

J.M. MACHARG
General Manager and Actuary

6 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA
23rd April, 1985

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of
HAAS OVERSEAS CAPITAL N.V.
 (now Robm and Haas Company)

8% % Guaranteed Debentures Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of June 1, 1971, as supplemented, providing for the above Debentures, said Debentures aggregating \$325,000 principal amount bearing the following serial numbers have been selected for redemption on June 1, 1985 through operation of the mandatory Sinking Fund at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with interest accrued and unpaid to said date:

Outstanding Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M" bearing the distinctive numbers ending in any of the following two digits:

03 07 09 17 19 21 25 44 60 65 67 69 74 86 92 93

Also Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M"

bearing the following serial numbers:

2257 2657 34157 34787

Payment will be made upon presentation and surrender of the above Debentures with coupons due June 1, 1986 and subsequent coupons attached at the main offices of any of the following: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 30 West Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10015; Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in Brussels, Frankfurt am Main, London, Paris and Zurich; Credito Romagnolo S.p.A. in Milan and Rome; Bank Mees & Hope NV in Amsterdam; and Banque Générale du Luxembourg S.A. in Luxembourg. Payments at the office of any paying agent outside of the United States will be made by check drawn on, or transfer to a United States dollar account with a bank in the Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York. Any payment made by transfer to an account maintained by the payee with a bank in the United States may be subject to reporting to the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and to backup withholding at a rate of 20% if payee is not recognized as exempt recipient under the provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code, or if payee fails to provide the paying agent with an executed IRS Form W-9, certifying under penalty of perjury that the payee is a United States person or an executed IRS Form W-9, certifying under penalty of perjury that the payee's taxpayer identification number (employer identification number or social security number, as appropriate). Those holders who are required to provide their correct taxpayer identification number on Internal Revenue Service Form W-9 and who fail to do so may also be subject to a penalty of \$50. Please therefore provide the appropriate certification when presenting your securities for payment.

Coupons due June 1, 1985 should be detached and collected in the usual manner. On and after June 1, 1985 interest shall cease to accrue on the Debentures selected for redemption.

ROHM AND HAAS COMPANY

Dated: April 23, 1985

Industry in Scotland optimistic

By Our Correspondent

More optimism from manufacturers in Scotland is reported in the quarterly issue of the Scottish Business Survey issued by the Fraser of Allander Institute of Strathclyde University, Glasgow.

Manufacturers report that new orders and sales increased in Britain and particularly overseas. However, they are still operating well below capacity, and employment levels are said to be unchanged, although on balance, companies hiring workers exceed those reporting lay-offs.

Construction companies in Scotland are said to be less optimistic than three months ago, and employment is forecast to decrease in the coming quarter.

In the service sector, retailers continue to report increasing optimism, and sales are expected to improve over the next three months. Wholesalers also report better trading prospects.

The chambers of commerce of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, and Glasgow co-operated with the institute for the survey which covered 306 companies in manufacturing, construction, distribution and finance.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND subsidiary Charterhouse Jagger profit for 1984 (Figures in £000) after providing for tax and making a transfer to inner reserve out of which provision been made for diminution in value of assets (£6,674,000) dealt with in company accounts - 1983 £6,569,000 9,000 (8,000). Dividend paid and payable 1,700 (3,400). Retained profit for year 7,300 (4,600).

Menziez goes shopping with £20m

Popular myth has it that the Scots are reluctant to part with their hard-earned cash. Not so John Menziez. The £20 million it had sitting in the bank at the year end will not be allowed to linger in the lap of high interest rates. Rather, the group is actively seeking to put the money to work through acquisitions.

The chosen area for the expansion will be distribution where Menziez can afford to make a quite large acquisition. It had gearing of 32 per cent a year ago so there is clearly room to supplement cash with borrowings. Menziez does not want to issue shares but it could still spend £40 million on a purchase without putting undue pressure on the balance sheet.

Given that borrowings had fallen so substantially in the year it was surprising that the interest bill was only marginally reduced. This makes the pretax profits of £17.1 million, up from £13.2 million, even more impressive. They were well ahead of City expectations but most analysts had incorporated a quite sharp reduction in interest in their forecasts.

The improvement came across the board with all five divisions reporting improved profits. The wholesale side benefited from better volumes and price increases which countered the effects of increased stoppages in Fleet Street. In the retail division volumes also increased and

Menziez was able to improve net margins.

The most disappointing aspect of the results was the tax charge, which rose from 30 per cent to 46 per cent, reflecting changes made in the 1984 Finance Act. The rate will reduce in future to come in line with the basic rate.

This year Menziez is in line to make pretax profits of around £20 million. The shares closed up 15p at 291p, and although they are not cheap they should still be held.

French Kier

The latest set of figures from French Kier shows how successful the company has become as the construction industry's version of a merchant adventurer. Turnover last year rose from £285.3 million to £326.6 million and pretax profits from £14.3 million to £16.4 million, well ahead of market estimates.

Few had expected that the company would be able to compensate for the miserable domestic construction market by trebling its profits from overseas work but, by travelling wherever the work may be, that is exactly what Kier has achieved. On turnover higher, the overseas construction divisions lifted profits from £2.8 million to £8.4 million. The figures include completions on some major contracts in Costa Rica, Saudi Arabia and the Philippines but the good news is, that at least for the current

year, Kier has the work that should enable it to continue earning such returns overseas.

"Any contracting is risky", the chairman, Mr John Mott, warns and when the contracts are in from Fiji, Kenya and Iraq it may be more so. But last year the company successfully extricated itself from a problem-ridden contract with the Iraq State Organisation for Roads and Bridges and it has been able to write back, as an extraordinary item, more than £3 million that had been provided against it.

The company is strong enough to withstand the almost deadly stillness of the United Kingdom contracting market, where it is concentrating on doing smaller jobs as they come along. For growth, it is looking towards housebuilding and property development. Rental income last year topped £2 million and with the Beverley Hills project in America now almost fully let, there is more to come. A major shopping centre scheme for Southend is taking shape, but Kier has still to tie up the funding with an institution.

Cash, however, is not a pressing problem. Kier now has nearly £47 million, more than two-thirds of its market capitalization, in this form. Some of this may go towards funding an acquisition, perhaps in the United States, but most gives Kier the cushion it needs to function in the problematic construction industry.

Its prospects look better than

those of most in the sector and profits for the current year should easily top £17 million. But that does not imply a great deal of growth. With the dividend up from 5.6p to 6.15p the shares up from 120p to 127p yield well above average, but it is hard to see much more short-term excitement in them.

Simon Engineering

Simon Engineering is continuing to produce good increases in sales and profits despite the persistence of difficult trading conditions in most of its markets.

Last year group pretax profits rose 18 per cent from £21.7 million to £25.6 million and 1985 promises to deliver a similar scale of increase to around £30 million.

Recovery in the capital goods industries has remained patchy, but Simon Engineering has nevertheless entered the present year with an improved order book. The longer term looks encouraging.

The cash mountain at the year end was adversely affected by a £5.5 million shipment to Nigeria but is now back to its former level of about £40 million net - equal to more than 30 per cent of shareholders' funds. It is difficult to find a more financially secure company than Simon in the engineering sector, and its shares - up 8p yesterday to 254p where the prospective p/e is 7.8 and the yield 4.5 per cent - look as good value as ever.

COMMODITIES REVIEW

Gold costs prompt the unthinkable idea of output cut

By Michael Prest

Cognoscenti of the South African gold mining industry would not regard Mr Ted Pavitt, chairman of Gencor, as anything but a level-headed fellow. So when in London yesterday he remarked almost casually that curtailing gold production in order to support the price was a respectable notion we should listen.

At first hearing it sounds like thinking about the unthinkable. Even a price struggling to hold itself above \$300 an ounce is comfortably profitable for most producers. Certainly, there is no shortage of new mines, mostly small, being rushed into production all over the world, from Wales to Western Australia.

The same applies to the bigger groups. Gencor may have its problems with marginal mines such as Stilfontein, but overall gold production is still highly lucrative. Historically, gold mining has not been governed by problems of demand. All that could be dug out was sold.

Whenever new discoveries - Brazil, Australia, California, and the South African Eldorado - have sharply increased supply they have simultaneously testified to the apparently insatiable demand for the metal.

When the South African mines were at their maximum production of nearly 1,000 tonnes a year in the 1960s - and gold, incidentally, was still pegged at \$35 an ounce - their concern was how to achieve optimum output over the longest possible period at a given level of economic reserves.

They were not primarily concerned with how to dispose of the stuff. That seemed to take care of itself - with a little help from the Reserve Bank. But is that happy state of affairs ending?

It might seem far-fetched, but there are some good reasons for arguing that gold may not be as different from the benighted base metals, such as copper, whose life is dominated by demand-driven cycles of boom and bust.

The table shows how western world gold output has grown steadily since the late 1970s. Last year's estimated total of 1,115 tonnes is the highest since 1973, and it is quite likely that the record or 1,285 tonnes reached in 1966 will be surpassed in the next few years.

The reason is that while South African output is falling - indeed the Republic's output, although still by far and away the world's biggest has been in a long-term secular decline for a decade - other countries are more than making up the difference.

Brazil has increased its production from 12.5 tonnes in the mid-1970s to more than 30

tonnes last year, where it has overtaken the United States to become the West's third biggest producer. Latin America as a whole dug out 42 tonnes in 1975 and more than 140 tonnes last year.

Australia and Canada, two traditional suppliers have also significantly raised their supply. But the crucial point is that the Third World producers, who are the new contributors to the cumulative extra, enjoy much lower production costs.

This truth is drawing most brightly in South Africa. As Mr Pavitt pointed out yesterday, wages for black mineworkers in the Republic have gone up by 1,000 per cent over the past 10 years. Inflation is 15 per cent.

The restraints of working more marginal ore at colossal depths, or of spending many hundreds of million Rand to develop new mines - such as Gold Field's Driefontein complex - render cost saving difficult. As a result Gencor's profitability at the prevailing price has been sold.

To these problems should be added the relatively new and

Gold may become dominated by demand-driven cycles of boom and bust

unpredictable element of black trade unionism, vividly exemplified by the mass sackings at Vaal Reef.

Costs, therefore, are eclipsing prices as the determinant of the South African industry. Of course, costs have always been important. But for a long time South Africa has not been challenged by cheaper producers who are better placed to meet marginal demand at a given price.

Demand for gold, therefore, need not fall (indeed it could be rising) for South African mines to restrict production for reasons other than maximizing mine life.

But is the event that may well be thinking about the unthinkable. There is one good reason for this doomsday possibility not occurring: the South African government's need for revenue and foreign exchange earnings.

If necessary, the government, for all its ambitions to free the exchange rate, would rather depreciate the Rand than see mines close or cut production.

The last two years have vividly illustrated the effectiveness of such a policy. The final irony would be that South Africa would be little different from the Third World countries whose approach of production at any cost it condemns.

WESTERN WORLD GOLD (1975-1983)
(Metric Tons)

	Cumulative world gold supply	Gold mine production	Private bullion supply
1975	84,044.8	945.6	1,104
1976	84,990.4	963.8	1,434
1977	85,984.2	962.3	1,632
1978	86,978.5	972.0	1,744
1979	87,888.5	959.4	1,702
1980	88,847.9	952.0	812
1981	89,799.9	973.0	977
1982	90,772.9	1,023.5	1,140
1983	91,795.4	1,088.2	1,259
1984	92,854.6	1,132.0	1,273

Source: Comp. Consolidated Gold Fields



SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP

Comments by the Chairman - Lord Aldington

Summary of Results - 1984

	Sun Alliance and Phoenix 1984 £m	Sun Alliance 1983 £m
Premium income		
General insurance	1,606.7	884.8
Long-term insurance	505.1	294.3
	2,111.8	1,179.1
General insurance underwriting loss	(198.7)	(67.4)
Long-term insurance profits	18.4	8.5
Investment and other income	227.9	132.3
Group profit before taxation	47.6	73.4
Taxation	4.1	26.3
Group profit after taxation	43.5	47.1
Minority interests	6.5	1.1
Group net profit for year	37.0	46.0
Adjustment to exclude net loss incurred by Phoenix prior to acquisition	4.0	-
Profit attributable to Shareholders	41.0	46.0
Dividend	30.6	27.6
Profit Retained	10.4	18.4
Earnings per Share	20.8p	23.3p
Dividend per Share	15.5p	14.0p

This is the fourteenth and last occasion on which I shall be reporting to you on the affairs of the Sun Alliance Group. 1984 was an exceptionally eventful year. It brought for us appalling underwriting losses, the consequence of the almost world-wide state of extreme adversity that afflicts general insurance business; it provided further proof of the importance and value of the strong financial position of our Group, which has been steadily built up over many years; and thirdly, the year 1984 gave us just the opportunity for expansion for which we had hoped.

Our inherent financial strength and very high solvency margin enabled us to respond positively and decisively when the Directors of the Phoenix Assurance Company invited us in June last to consider acquiring that Office; and our immediate response and ability to finance a cash bid made it possible to negotiate reasonable and satisfactory terms.

We have no doubt at all that bringing together the Sun Alliance and the Phoenix holds great promise for the future. In many desirable ways our businesses complement or reinforce each other. I am happy to report that integrating our operations has been proceeding apace in a notably harmonious and constructive atmosphere - a testimony to the high quality of leadership and of understanding at all levels both in the Phoenix and in Sun Alliance.

In several countries the Phoenix has operated on a merged basis with other insurance companies and we have recently agreed terms to acquire the minority interests of their partners in Australia and South Africa. There will, of course, be attendant costs and strains in the short term, not least upon our staffs; and we might well have wished for more settled and prosperous times in which to rationalise and reorganise our businesses. But speedy and harmonious integration will help to solve some of the trading problems that face us and will provide a sound and improved structure for a satisfying career in our Group.

The acquisition of the Phoenix became effective on 17th August, 1984, and the trading results, although shown on a consolidated basis, have been treated as pre or post acquisition profits.

A sizeable part of the Phoenix's worth, for which we have effectively paid cash, consists of its Life business. We already had in the Sun Alliance a larger and extremely valuable Life business which does not appear in the balance sheet as an asset and we have decided not to ascribe what would inevitably be arbitrary values to the Life business. Accordingly, we have written off the value of the Phoenix Life business in the accounts against revaluation reserve.

Putting aside these technical matters, the reality is clear - the true net worth of the Group has been augmented.

The Annual General Meeting of Sun Alliance and London Insurance plc will be held on 22nd May, 1985 at the Head Office, Bartholomew Lane, London EC2.

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Securities firms line up to become gilt market-makers

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Potential market makers in gilts have until Friday to make initial applications to the Bank of England.

Between 25 and 30 groups are expected to apply, about half of whom will be British. The rest will be dominated by US-owned financial service groups.

Formal applications to the Bank will mark the beginning of the final stage of the shift towards a new-style gilt market, modelled on the government bond market in the United States.

Interest groups have been in discussions with the Bank of England for up to a year, and during this period the number

of potential market-makers has halved from more than 50 originally.

Applicants will receive an "annotated agenda" on which further discussions with the Bank on capitalization and area of the market in which they will operate will be based.

The Bank will publish the number of acceptable applicants towards the end of May and then invite those that are acceptable to proceed with their applications.

A full list of market makers in the new trading system will be published in mid June. Some pruning of numbers, probably between 20 and 25, is expected.

Smiths Industries to buy Eschmann

By Alison Eadie

Smiths Industries, manufacturer of electronics for aerospace and marine industries and of medical equipment, is buying Glaxo's surgical products and hospital equipment business, Eschmann Bros & Walsh, for an undisclosed sum. Eschmann, which makes theatre equipment including operating tables and surgical aids, had a turnover in the year to June 1984 of £19 million, but made a negligible trading profit. Cus in National Health Service spending as well as rationalization costs in Britain and South Africa were responsible for the decline in profitability.

Glaxo is selling Eschmann because it does not fit in with its mainstream pharmaceutical business. Smiths Industries, chaired by Sir Roy Sisson, however, has a growing medical side and expects to see growth from the Eschmann business.

Sir Roy Sisson: expecting growth for the purchase

Smiths Group Medical Systems made profits of £12.1 million on sales of £59 million in the 12 months to August 4, last year. Medical Systems contributed 15 per cent of turnover and 31 per cent of profits.

Anvil accepts £10m bid

By Our City Staff

Terms have been agreed for the £10.2 million takeover of Anvil Petroleum, the independent oil and gas exploration and production company, by Berkeley Exploration and Production which is 29 per cent owned by the French Elf Group and 22 per cent owned by the British oil company Charterhouse.

The document sent to shareholders offers seven new ordinary shares of £1 each in

Berkeley for 15 ordinary shares of 20p each in Anvil. A cash alternative equal to 56.9p per ordinary 20p Anvil share will be available once the offer becomes unconditional.

Anvil's merchant bank, Samuel Montagu, is advising shareholders to accept the offer, which closes on May 20. Those who do will see a 21.6 per cent rise in the capital value of their shares. If they accept the ordinary offer or a 15 per cent increase if they take cash.

● **LOWLAND INVESTMENT CO:** Interim 3p (2.3p). The board expects that final will be at least maintained. Proposed two-for-one scrip. Income from investment six months to March 31. (Figures in 2000) 457 (317). Interest on short term deposits 51 (15). Other income 5 (6). Interest charges 69 (12). Administrative 24 (23). Pretax profit 421 (304). Tax 135 (96). Earnings per share 3.68p (2.66p). Net asset value taking prior charges at par 290.8p. (228.1p) and at market 291.5p (nil).

● **S L VEST:** Interim 2.5p (same) payable on June 3. Turnover half year to December 31, 1984. (Figures in 2000) 2,716 (4,786). Pretax loss 276 (11.17p) (29.38p).

in 2000) 8,492 (8,296). Pretax profit 214 (209). Tax 92 (79). Earnings per share 2.81p (3.05p).

● **TRIFUS & CO:** Dividend 0.05p (same). Turnover for 1984 (Figures in 2000) 21,970 (20,579). Pretax loss 214 (1143). Tax 368 (credit 134). Minorities 176 (147). Extraordinary credits 221 (898) being sale of surplus properties (sale of investment). Loss per share 11.17p (29.38p).

● **PETERS STORES:** Interim 0.5p (1p). Net sales 36 weeks to December 29, 1984. (Figures in 2000) 2,716 (4,786). Pretax loss 276 (11.17p) (29.38p). Profit 64 after interest charge 405

(363). Tax nil (5). Loss per share 8.6p (earnings per share 1.8p).

● **TMG GROUP:** Acceptance have been received in respect of 1,302,638 TMG ordinary shares (97.0 per cent of ordinary share capital not already owned by Jefferson Smurfit prior to offer) and 95,673 TMG preferred shares (83.9 per cent preferred share capital. Smurfit owned no TMG preferred shares before the offer).

● **HOWARD MACHINERY:** No dividend for 1984. (Figures in 2000) Sales 43,915 (46,078). Loss before tax 1,634 (7555 profit). Tax 254 (489). Making loss 1,888 (266 profit). Minorities credit 72 (7 debit).

Extraordinary debits 3,760 (1,483). Trading conditions so far this year remain depressed.

● **E UPTON AND SONS:** No dividend (same). Turnover for 52 weeks to January 29 (33 weeks) (Figures in 2000) 4,718 (5,733). Pretax loss 386 (482). Tax credit 38 (credit 25). Extraordinary debit 51 (credit 10) being rights issue costs (profit on sale of freeholding properties). Loss per share 19p (26p). Sales budgets were not achieved in second half. Further action has been taken to reduce central costs.

● **HADEN** has posted to shareholders its profit and dividend forecasts for the year to December 31, 1985. The principal elements of the forecasts are: profit on ordinary activities before tax of not less than £11.8 million; earnings per share of not less than 40p; dividend of 15p net per share (21.4p gross).

● **J ROTHSCHILD HOLDINGS** has bought through the market for cancellation 6,100,000 ordinary shares of 25p each at 103p. After these cancellations, the issued share capital will be 426,937,560 shares of 25p each.

● **A J WORTHINGTON (HOLDINGS):** Subscriptions have been received in respect of a total of 1,395,897 new ordinary shares amounting to 69.79 per cent of the rights offered. In view of the percentage of new shares not taken up, the remaining shares will be left with the underwriter. The issue was underwritten by Fabian Friedland & Sons.

● **LYLE SHIPPING** has received from County Bank notification that the bank no longer has an interest which is subject to the notification requirement.

● **NEIL & SPENCE HOLDINGS:** Merger with Jenson Corporation approved by the company's shareholders at a meeting on April 2 has been completed.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the Regulations of the Council of The Stock Exchange in London. It does not constitute an invitation to any person to subscribe for or otherwise acquire any shares in AB Astra.

ASTRA

(Incorporated in the Kingdom of Sweden with limited liability)

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange in London for all the free shares of AB Astra to be admitted to the Official List on 1st May, 1985.

The following table sets out the share capital of AB Astra as at the date hereof:

	No. of shares	SEK
Restricted shares of nominal value SEK 25 each	18,055,820	451,390,500
Free shares of nominal value SEK 25 each	4,513,820	112,845,500
	22,569,640	564,236,000

Listing Particulars relating to AB Astra are available in the statistical service of Exel Statistical Services Limited. Copies of the Listing Particulars may be obtained during normal business hours (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 2nd May, 1985 from the Company Announcements Office, The Stock Exchange, Throgmorton Street, London EC2P 2BT, and up to and including 13th May, 1985 from:

Sponsors to the introduction:

Enskilda Securities
Skandinaviska Enskilda Limited
26 Finsbury Square
London EC2A 1DS

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited
22 Bishopsgate
London EC2N 4BQ

Brokers to the introduction:

Grieson, Grant and Co.
59 Gresham Street
London EC2P 2DS

30th April, 1985

SIMON ENGINEERING

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

Group results for the year ended 31 December 1984

	1984 £000	1983 £000
Turnover	520,857	376,148
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	25,623	21,720
Profit on ordinary activities after tax	18,360	15,810
Profit before extraordinary items	15,869	14,829
Extraordinary items	(1,105)	(4,536)
Profit for the financial year	14,764	8,093
Dividends	(4,833)	(4,050)
Profit retained	9,931	4,043

Earnings per ordinary share:

Before extraordinary items	27.6p	25.8p
After extraordinary items	25.7p	17.9p

The accounts above are abridged versions of the audited accounts for which the reports of the auditors were unqualified. The 1984 accounts will be filed with the Registrar of Companies in due course.

- * Record profits for the thirteenth successive year
- * 18 per cent increase in pre-tax profits
- * 32 per cent increase in operating profits
- * Dividends increased by 14.3 per cent
- * Increasing benefits from investment in product development and re-equipping

SIMON ENGINEERING PLC

Cheadle Heath, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 0RT

Process Plant Contracting; Engineering Services; Food Engineering; Manufacturing; Merchandising and Storage; Oil Services

ICI-from aspiration to achievement in 1984.

Speaking at the Annual General Meeting on 29th April 1985, John Harvey-Jones, Chairman of ICI, said:

The 1984 results put ICI back where it belongs, in the forefront of the world's chemical companies. We were the first manufacturing company in the UK to achieve a billion pounds profit and that must be a reason for pride. All sectors of the business and all geographic areas did better in 1984 than in 1983. There are four performances which I feel I must comment on - with apologies to the others.

Advance in all areas

First, we moved ahead rapidly in the USA. It was gratifying to see dollar sales accelerate by 23% and profits by almost 80%.

Second, I must again comment on the excellence of our pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals businesses whose products are acknowledged leaders in world markets. Together they accounted for more than 30% of the 1984 trading profit.

Third, was the major turn-round of the petrochemicals and plastics business - from a £7m loss in 1983 to a £138m profit in 1984 - a clear sign of the business's improved competitiveness and ability to take rapid advantage of changing circumstances. Another notable turn-round was of course fibres, which was at last

restored to profitability.

Fourth, was a really outstanding export performance from the UK. We were pleased to have exchange rates more on our side and there was no doubt about the flow through - an increase in chemical exports of 23% which included a volume increase of 10%. Exports from our UK production units earned £40m a week. A full half of our UK production now goes for export.

These are vital and important facets of our 1984 performance, but the overall impression is one of advance in all businesses and all geographic areas.

As far as the results for the first quarter 1985 are concerned sales and profits are higher than those for the corresponding quarter of last year and also higher than those for the final quarter. Agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals continued to move ahead - as did petrochemicals and plastics - and there were good performances from fibres, speciality chemicals and polyurethanes. So we have got off to a good start in 1985.

A significantly different company

I would now like to turn to the re-shaping of ICI. I am convinced we have now reached a point where ICI is a significantly different Company. We are far from having all our eggs

in one basket. In 1984, of the profit directly attributable to businesses, 25% came from pharmaceuticals, 22% from agriculture, 15% from general chemicals, 14% from petrochemicals and plastics, 13% from a variety of businesses including paint, explosives, fibres and speciality chemicals, and 11% from oil. That is a convincing

third. It seems to me that these figures demonstrate a significant change. Also, the sectors which include the so-called commodity businesses, on which we are now less dependent for profits, will also be more robust profit earners in future, with less potential for incurring losses when business turns down.

Some financial highlights in 1984

Total turnover	£9,909m-up 20%
Profit before tax	£1,034m-up 67%
Earnings per share	98.2p-up 50%
Dividend per £1 Ordinary Stock	30.0p-up 25%

spread of risk, especially when the territorial spread across the main geographic areas of the world is also taken into account.

There has also been a real shift in the source of our profits. To demonstrate this I have done a comparison with our previous best year 1979. Remember that pre-tax profits increased from over £600m in 1979 to over £1,000m in 1984. Within this larger cake the combined pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals slice of trading profits has increased from just over 10% to one third, and the combined petrochemicals, plastics and general chemicals slice has decreased from almost a half to less than one

New vitality and commercial leadership

I believe that the Company's re-shaping has moved out of the realm of aspiration into the realm of achievement as further growth comes through from the Beatrice Chemical operations, which in a single move puts ICI among the world leaders in high growth advanced materials and furthers the development of our international Speciality Chemicals business. Growth will also come from electronic chemicals, advanced materials and the application of bio-science in health care and agriculture. More diversity, youthful businesses,

higher profitability, and closer attention to special markets will I believe bring into ICI new vitality and commercial leadership in new growth areas.

Having said that I can assure you there is no intention whatsoever of neglecting our existing fixed assets. We shall keep them up-to-date and add to them where the business continues to have the necessary profit earning potential.

You will see from the Report that expenditure on fixed capital assets increased in 1984. You will also see that net liquid resources increased very substantially to £628m. We see these resources very much as business opportunity assets and I expect that a bigger proportion in future will be allocated to new business development.

Getting our world-wide network to function fully in our new circumstances will also be a major competitive advantage. This world-wide network is particularly necessary and beneficial for the UK where we still employ half our people and where more than half our fixed capital investment was made in 1984.

The massive flow of exports from the UK needs the pulling power of our world-wide operations. The UK power-house of technology and science, the leading-edge of the Group, likewise needs world markets for its exploitation.

Although three quarters of the

Group's sales are now outside the UK it is my belief and hope that our UK-based production units can and will continue to be a powerfully important part of the Group's resources.

A truly competitive high-science company

We need inventive capacity, innovative capacity, manufacturing, marketing and sales skills. We aim to link our UK science and technology resources into those of the USA and Japan, to link this in turn into centres of innovation either in existing ICI businesses, businesses we grow, or businesses we acquire, and to exploit the fruits of this inventiveness and innovation via our world-wide production, marketing and sales network.

These are very exciting and challenging tasks, but this is what the quality of organisations is really about. This is what twenty-first century high-science companies will be about. This is what ICI will be about and why you will be right to continue to invest in it.



Imperial Chemical Industries PLC

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Quiet start to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, April 29. Dealings End, May 10. Contango Day, May 13. Settlement Day, May 20.
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Yld	P.E.
1	DAIRY AND STORES	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
2	DAIRY (Aldford)	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
3	NSS Newsagents	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
4	Debenhams	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
5	House of Fraser	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
6	Debenhams	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
7	Dunhill	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
8	Freemans	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
9	W W Group	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
10	Combined English	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
11	PROPERTY	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
12	Cap & Combies	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
13	Halstead	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
14	Regalair	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
15	Stewart	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
16	Business Pros	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
17	Bu Land	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
18	Estates Pros	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
19	Bruton	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
20	Bilton (P)	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
21	INDUSTRIALS-Z	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
22	Sunlight Serv	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
23	Vision	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
24	Smiths Ind	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
25	Sandhurst	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
26	Tate	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
27	Smith & Nephew	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
28	Tetco	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
29	TI	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
30	Trifolgar House	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
31	French Kier	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
32	Brickhouse Dudley	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
33	Redland	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
34	Alcander Contr	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
35	SOB	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
36	Higgs & Hill	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
37	Travis & Arnold	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
38	Lilly (PSC)	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
39	Cosman	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00
40	Parat Devs	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £60,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
Company	Price	Ch'ge	Yld	P.E.	Div	Yld
1	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
2	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
3	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
4	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
5	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
6	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
7	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
8	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
9	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
10	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
Company	Price	Ch'ge	Yld	P.E.	Div	Yld
1	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
2	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
3	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
4	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
5	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
6	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
7	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
8	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
9	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
10	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
Company	Price	Ch'ge	Yld	P.E.	Div	Yld
1	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
2	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
3	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
4	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
5	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
6	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
7	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
8	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
9	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
10	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00

UNDATED						
Company	Price	Ch'ge	Yld	P.E.	Div	Yld
1	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
2	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
3	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
4	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
5	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
6	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
7	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
8	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
9	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
10	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00

INDEX-LINKED						
Company	Price	Ch'ge	Yld	P.E.	Div	Yld
1	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
2	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
3	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
4	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
5	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
6	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
7	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
8	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
9	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
10	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00

BANKS DISCOUNT HP						
Company	Price	Ch'ge	Yld	P.E.	Div	Yld
1	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
2	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
3	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
4	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
5	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
6	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
7	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
8	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
9	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
10	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00

BUILDING AND ROADS						
Company	Price	Ch'ge	Yld	P.E.	Div	Yld
1	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
2	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
3	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
4	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
5	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
6	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
7	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
8	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
9	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
10	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00

FINANCE AND LAND						
Company	Price	Ch'ge	Yld	P.E.	Div	Yld
1	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
2	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
3	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
4	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
5	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
6	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
7	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
8	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
9	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
10	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00

FOODS						
Company	Price	Ch'ge	Yld	P.E.	Div	Yld
1	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
2	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
3	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
4	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
5	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
6	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
7	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
8	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
9	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
10	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS						
Company	Price	Ch'ge	Yld	P.E.	Div	Yld
1	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
2	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
3	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
4	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
5	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
6	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
7	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
8	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
9	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
10	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00

CINEMAS AND TV						
Company	Price	Ch'ge	Yld	P.E.	Div	Yld
1	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
2	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
3	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
4	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
5	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
6	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
7	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
8	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
9	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00
10	100.00	0.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00

271	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
272	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
273	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
274	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
275	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
276	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
277	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
278	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
279	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
280	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
281	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
282	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
283	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
284	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
285	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
286	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
287	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
288	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
289	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
290	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
291	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
292	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
293	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
294	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
295	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
296	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
297	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
298	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
299	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
300	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
301	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
302	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
303	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
304	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
305	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
306	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
307	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
308	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
309	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
310	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
311	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
312	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
313	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
314	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
315	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
316	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
317	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
318	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
319	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
320	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
321	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
322	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
323	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
324	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
325	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
326	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
327	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
328	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
329	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
330	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
331	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
332	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
333	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
334	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
335	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
336	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
337	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
338	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
339	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
340	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
341	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
342	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
343	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
344	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
345	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
346	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
347	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
348	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
349	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
350	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
351	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
352	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
353	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
354	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
355	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
356	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
357	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
358	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
359	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
360	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
361	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
362	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
363	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
364	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
365	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
366	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
367	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
368	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
369	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
370	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
371	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
372	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
373	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
374	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
375	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
376	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
377	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
378	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
379	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
380	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
381	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
382	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
383	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
384	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
385	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
386	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
387	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
388	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
389	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
390	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
391	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
392	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
393	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
394	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
395	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
396	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
397	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
398	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
399	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
400	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
401	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
402	100	0	1	10	0	1	10	0	1
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COMPUTER HORIZONS/1

The great world phone-in

It is doubtful expressed last week by the British government over the policy it must adopt to improve immediately its telecommunications and move the country fully into the twentieth century is that the telecommunications in New Delhi occurred at the same time as the closures that both France and Belgium have signed agreements with China to buy telecommunications to buy telecommunications equipment.

Both incidents are reminders to the delegates at the Economic Summit in London this week that the development of telecommunications in the non-industrialized world is as vital to them as energy and food. The stimulation of these markets need not be an act of philanthropy but provide vital new markets for the expanding information-technology industries of the developed world.

The complex question was addressed by a special commission of the International Telecommunications Union, an agency of the United Nations. The 17-person commission reported last year and said that the delegates to the next summit must grasp the complexities of the potential of the telecommunications deficiencies of the developing world.

There are about 600 million telephones in the world, three-quarters of which are in the countries. Most of them will be replaced at the Bonn summit - Britain, France, West Germany, Canada, the United States and Italy the European Commission and Japan.

The ITU commission led by a former diplomat, Sir Donald Maitland, has been set to canvass support from among

these nations. Sadly Sir Donald placed most of his faith on British Department of Trade and Industry which has done virtually nothing to help. Some companies in the British IT sector have responded positively, two of the most notable being British Telecom and Cable & Wireless. Sir Donald wants to create an international centre of telecommunications to help co-ordinate telecommunications development and ensure that these technically ignorant countries buy the correct equipment for their needs and are not duped into buying machinery too advanced for their requirements and pockets.

The rewards for the industrialized nations will be plentiful but such coordination might prevent the developed world engaging in unseemly competition where contracts for IT equipment depend on finance and not technology.

The Maitland commission had concluded: "In a majority of developing countries the telecommunications system is inadequate to sustain essential services. In large tracts of territory there is no system at all. Neither in the name of common interest nor on grounds of common interest is such a disparity acceptable".

Sir Donald has been trying in his own diplomatic way to appeal to the generous and the avaricious. He pointed out to all that such investment in telecommunications would generate as significant

economic activity in the industrialized world as it would in the developing countries.

The Maitland report, cryptically called *The Missing Link*, gave that measure. It emphasized that three-quarters of the world's population live in countries with fewer than 10 telephones for every 100 persons.

The Maitland Commission knew the significance of the problem. It begged: "We have noted with interest that the seven governments which participated in the Economic Summit in London in 1984 gave their encouragement to practical measures in developing countries to conserve natural resources and enhance indigenous food and energy production."

"We believe that it would greatly increase awareness of the essential role telecommunications play in development if, at the next economic summit, the participating governments gave similar encouragement to the improvement and expansion of telecommunications. We appeal to them to do so."

The British can try to orchestrate what could be one of the most important debates at any economic summit. The Maitland Commission has stressed the need for international co-operation. The new Centre for Telecommunications Development which Sir Donald proposes could have its foundations laid in Bonn if the delegates respond positively. There is no doubt that they must. The future of their own IT industries and those of the underdeveloped nations, which have yet to evolve, depend on it.

The Missing Link, International Telecommunications Union, Place des Nations, CH 1211, Geneva 20.

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

coordination might prevent the developed world engaging in unseemly competition where contracts for IT equipment depend on finance and not technology.

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OECD says: Open up the word channels

By Nicholas Rothwell

In an attempt to spur inter-European cooperation as protectionist tariffs come down and the force of international competition in high-technology intensifies, Europe is being urged to ease restrictions on the flow of computer data.

The OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), a research arm of the major western industrialized nations, stresses the need for a freer international flow of computerized information.

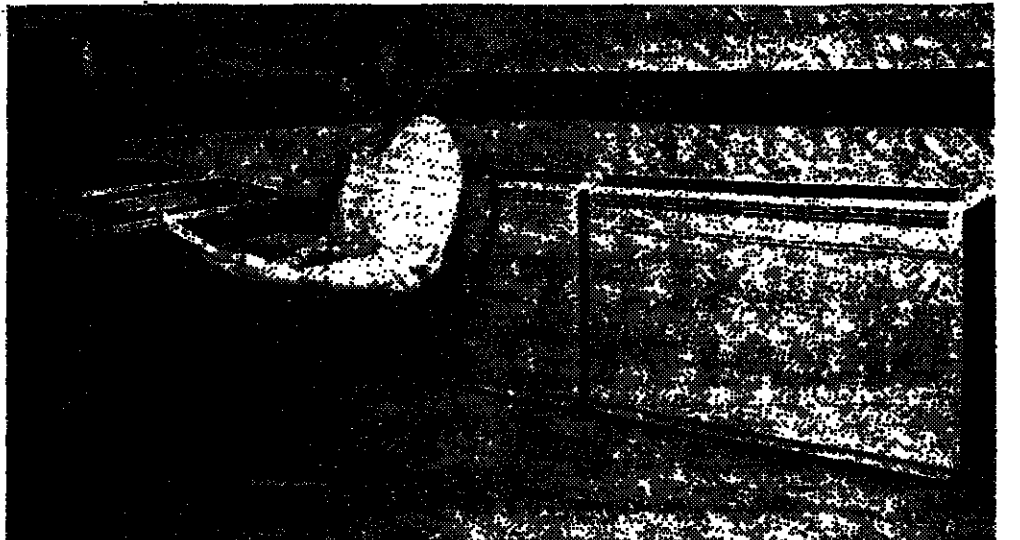
This declaration, made at the urging of the US, which wants to see computer information disseminated as swiftly as possible worldwide, put the OECD squarely in opposition to the more critical stance of the United Nations' specialized agencies.

Unesco in particular considers that computer data should not be allowed to flow unregulated across international borders because such a practice might simplify the exploitation by western states of less-developed nations. Trans-border data flows are used extensively by multi-national corporations - a bugbear of the highly politicized Unesco agency.

Reacting to the latest move by the Paris-based OECD, US officials in London described the public commitment as paving the way for an open international flow of information. The OECD declaration commits the 24 member governments of the group to try to minimize any disruption to the international flow of computer data.

There have been many obstacles in the way of various commercial transborder data networks for such standard applications as retailing and banking.

One senior US trade official was quoted, in the wake of the OECD declaration, as saying that any service product capable of reduction into electronically coded bits of information could be delivered to any point in the world, with great reliability, at little cost and virtually without time-lag - providing evident commercial advantages over more conventional means of exchanging data between different countries.



The units pictured above next to the wall are not night storage heaters but the shape of things to come in the mainframe business. They are examples of ICL's new Series 39 level 30 distributed mainframe processor, which can be put in a normal office environment and handle more than 200 users simultaneously. In size, weight and heat dissipation ICL claims the level 30 is more than three times better than competitive equipment.

Great claims as ICL displays its new-generation model

By Frank Brown

Tax dodgers beware! The taxman has a powerful new means of catching up with you - thanks to ICL's use of the latest computer technology. The Inland Revenue has just taken delivery of ICL's latest and largest mainframe computer, the Series 39 Model 80, to control the massive memory bank of the IR's £500 million nationwide IT network now being installed.

Series 39 is ICL's latest generation of mainframes, launched last week, which it claims will meet the demands of mainframe users well into the 1990s.

A standard feature of the new computer is an ultra-fast information management system called CAFS (computer-aided file search), which can search vast amounts of data at high speed and retrieve the required information up to 100 times faster than other computers.

processor in the new machines' to the size of a shoe box.

The design of the 39 Series itself could well win ICL a Queen's Award, despite the fact that the new computers rely on Japanese chip technology.

The company has combined its computer-design expertise with the chip fabrication know-how of Fujitsu (with which it has a collaborative technology agreement) and fibre-optic communications, to devise a range of compact mainframe computers which ICL claims are unmatched by those of any other supplier.

In addition to faster access to information, they provide more facilities and greater communications capabilities with high security, at a lower cost per user than ever before, the company claims.

Two sizes of machine have been produced. The medium-power Model 30 and the very powerful 80. Both are in the form of nodes, a node being a complete self-monitoring processing unit comprising an order-code processor, main store, input/output controllers and a node-support computer.

setting in that they can be located in offices. Their use of the latest chip technologies and lightweight equipment construction techniques, has greatly reduced their installation requirements.

A two-node Model 80 requires only a quarter the environmental resources - space, power and heat dissipation - of the IBM 3090/200 and therefore incurs a quarter the installation and running costs.

With the advent of office marketing strategy, the chairman of ICL, Robb Wilmot, contends that there is now no such thing as a mainframe market in the traditional sense of the term. He said: "The market is for central data-processing systems, and our mission is to sell solutions to users' processing requirements."

Outlining ICL's mainframe marketing strategy, Mr Bonfield, managing director, said ICL was now well-placed to compete in the world market for convergent systems, and would be a £1 billion turnover company by the end of the year.

Mainframes accounted for about a third of the company's business, and this would increase to two-thirds by the 1990s through a policy of pursuing vertical markets such as public administration, manufacturing, retail distribution, health care and financial services, he said.

ENIGMA

Codebreakers phone in big numbers

There was a huge response to last week's ENIGMA competition. More than three thousand readers of The Times solved the code.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

Because of the large number of prizes, the winner, who will win two British Airways Super Class tickets to Rio de Janeiro and £1,000 in cash, will be announced next week. There are 25 runner-up prizes of a Telecom Viscount Super 4 ones.

ELECOM INPHONE

are also changing the way which you enter in order to take account of the high level of competition. All details of this week's competition, for which the first prize is a flight to Japan plus £50, appears on page

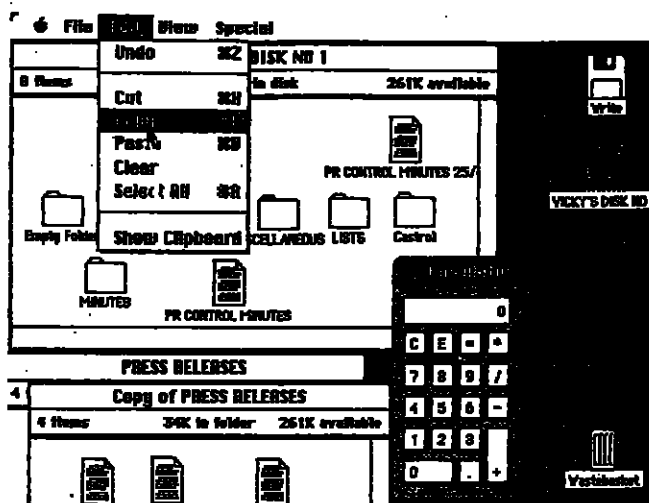
Everyone wants WIMPS

By Geof Wheelwright

The computer business is a constant stream of bandwagons: people are hopping on and off them all the time. The most popular bandwagon of the moment is one which will have manufacturers turning their new computers into WIMPS.

In the jargon of personal computer buffs, WIMPS are windows, icons, mice and pointer-based systems, comprising all the neat touches which have made the Apple Macintosh perhaps more well-known than any other business PC except IBMs. A WIMPS system lets you use a small electronic box (which sits beside the computer and is known as a mouse) to move things about the computer screen and give computer commands using pictures known as "icons" (or "icons").

WIMPS-style computers are planned for release by Atari, Commodore and Acorn - and Apple, ACT and Xerox have already released such computers. The objective (other than the obvious one of selling lots more micros) is to provide people who use computers with a more user-friendly way of giving commands and entering information.



Presenting computerized information in an easy-to-understand fashion has been long overdue in the micro-business. Now several computers in development plan to use a graphics system similar to that pictured.

Other than using the mouse to move the on-screen pointer to and from different objects, it can be used for freehand drawing, defining typesets and choosing program options. Equally as important as the mouse are the on-screen windows.

Windows are actually boxed-off sections of the computer screen which have different types of information in them. You might have four windows with, for instance word-processing in one, database management in another, business graphics in third and spreadsheet financial analysis in the fourth. The WIMPS-style computer would allow you to switch easily from one window to another - and would let you change the size of each window on the screen.

But it was not until the launch of Apple's Macintosh computer in January last year,

Should your business micro software offer a marriage of convenience or a Perfect match?

Most of us by now appreciate the ways in which a personal computer can help business. Word processing, forecasting and calculation, data storage and retrieval, and interactive data communications all become simpler and more efficient.

But computers don't think for themselves. No matter what sort of micro you buy it will only do exactly what you tell it to do. So you only realise the full benefits of computing power if you talk to your computer in the right way.

It is the software you choose that matches your computer to the tasks and dictates what your computer will, or will not perform.

Until now the choice of business microcomputer software has been a compromise. A marriage of convenience.

Either programs were simplistic and only performed basic tasks, or there were complicated, all encompassing packages that gave you everything you needed and more. Often much more, at a price you didn't want to pay.

Now THORN EMI Computer Software, Europe's largest software publisher, can give you the Perfect Match with Perfect Software II.

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Each Perfect II program is fully compatible with the others and the three main business applications

have been fully anglicised. French, Swedish and German programs will soon be available.

Perfect Writer II is a comprehensive, yet easy to learn, word processing program designed for both novice and expert alike. It will edit, search, layout, write reports and support most popular printers. And to make sure you're always word perfect there is a Perfect Thesaurus and Perfect Speller facility.

Perfect Calc II is a powerful and sophisticated calculation and forecasting program. It will run up to 15 spreadsheets at the same time, with split screen operation and regional calculation facilities. It comes complete with a variety of ready to use model spreadsheets.

Perfect Filer II is a data management program. It can produce inventories, personalised mailings, listings, customer files, records and much more, and you don't need to master a programming language or a complicated command structure.

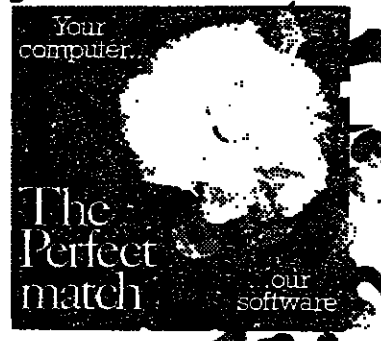
The final program in the Perfect II family is Perfect Link, a data communications program that can link your microcomputer to on-line information services and other computers.

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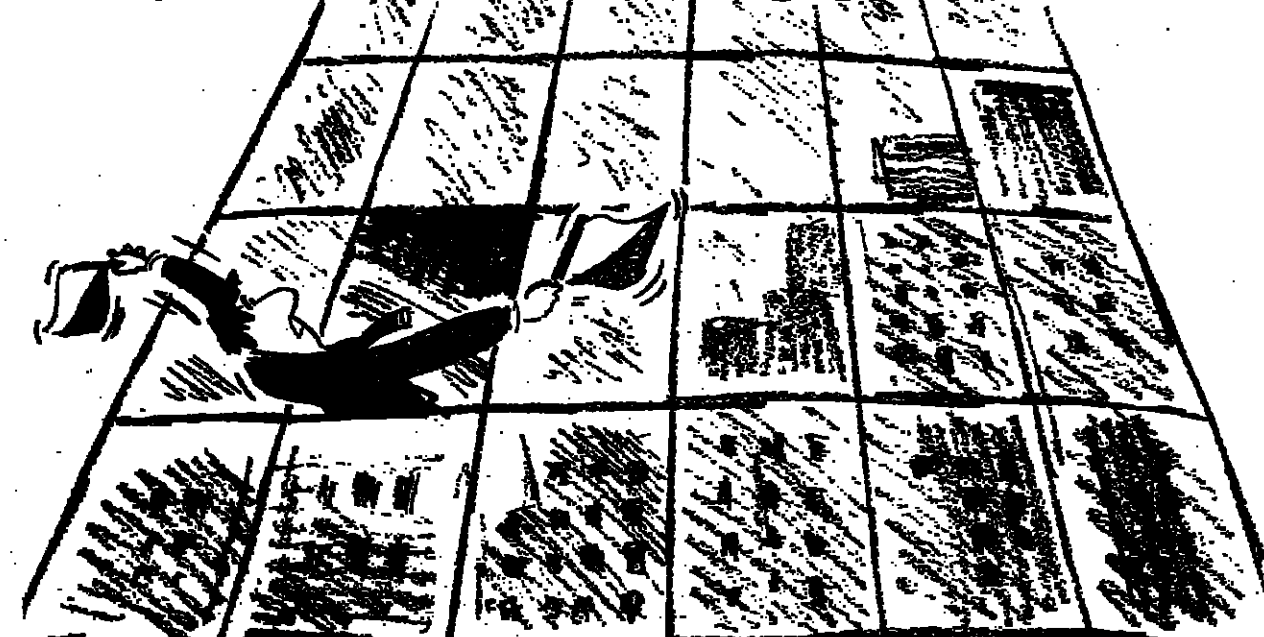
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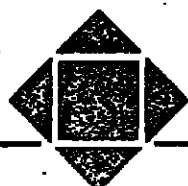
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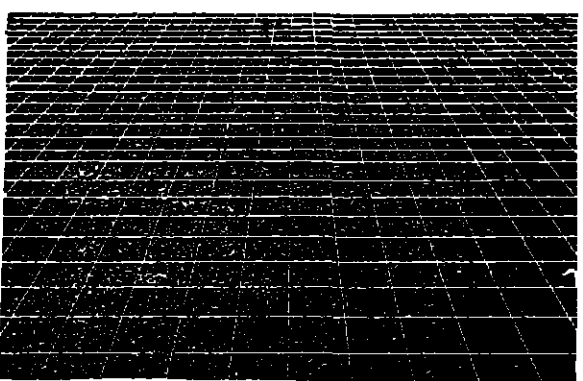
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Development will take place at the City and South Hertfordshire centres and will utilise the latest IBM hardware running under MVS with IDMS, ADS on-line, COBOL and WIZARD.

Database Designer £13,000-£18,000

Reporting directly to the Systems Manager, the successful applicant will be responsible for the design of the database to support the entire marketing functions of the division. Due to the importance of this position an experienced Database Designer with in-depth knowledge of IDMS is required. Experience of team leading would be advantageous as would a background in financial and business management systems.

Systems Analysts £11,000-£18,000

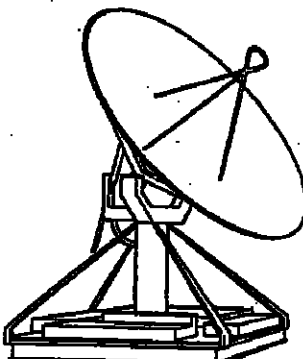
The creation of this group represents an opportunity for Systems Analysts to become involved with new and innovative business systems from feasibility through to implementation. Candidates should offer two to three years experience of systems investigation preferably gained with a large organization. Required to liaise with users and consultants, applicants should display clear and concise communication skills.

Systems Designers £11,000-£18,000

Systems Designers are required to join this group which is dedicated to the production of interactive financial business systems. The successful candidate will co-ordinate the design of the systems which will be developed using ADS on-line and COBOL. A minimum of three years experience designing large systems is required together with the ability to identify and evaluate alternative technical solutions. Good business awareness combined with previous experience of fourth generation tools would be advantageous.

Programmers £10,000-£15,000

Programmers have the opportunity to become involved in the development of interactive financial business systems. Management Information and Financial Systems. Experience ranging from 18 months to three years IBM COBOL is needed. A knowledge of IDMS and ADS on-line would be advantageous. There is also a requirement for a Programmer to develop systems using WIZARD. For the right candidates joining in ADS on-line and WIZARD will be given.



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Can't pay - won't stay

Experienced government computer staff are leaving the Civil Service at more than five times the rate of turnover for equivalent staff in other government areas. Figures from the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA) show that while only 2.7 per cent of data-processing staff with a higher executive officer (HEO) rank left the Civil Service in 1983, the figure rose to 7.1 per cent in 1984. Civil Service unions say that low pay and slow promotion are making computing jobs in the private sector increasingly attractive with pay rises of up to £3,000 plus a company car possible.

IBM reported

IBM has been reported to the US Federal Trade Commission by an American software company which alleges that IBM has misrepresented performance claims on a new software product. Syncsort, an independent supplier of sorting software for IBM mainframes, says that IBM's claim that the speed of sorting a new version of a software product is significantly better than the earlier version is misleading because it does not mention that three to eight times the computer memory was used in the later test.

Sorting computerized information is traditionally an activity that can take up large chunks of computer time and so speed of operation can often be the crucial factor in deciding between rival products.

Green gold

The attractions of Ireland, both fiscal and geographical, for US high-tech companies, has proved again to be a successful formula. Four companies, two with existing

COMPUTER BRIEFING

facilities, have announced development plans worth £7 million which will also provide more than 250 jobs.

Key Tronic, the world's largest keyboard producer, will build a plant in Dundalk at a cost of £4 million and will employ 150 people within two years. Expanding its existing Dundalk plant, Accura plans to invest a further £2.4 million on new plant and equipment. Computer Products has decided to triple its workspace at its factory in Dublin, only eight months after the decision to build there, and computer cabinet manufacturers Dahlstrom Manufacturing is involved in its first overseas start-up, putting up £400,000 to employ 50 workers in its North Dublin factory.

British first

A British firm has cut the cost of designing printed circuit boards (PCBs) and thereby hopes to boost the market for IBM and IBM-compatible personal computers. Racal-Redac Ltd has developed a PCB design software package which runs on the IBM PC, and which the company claims is the lowest cost system of its kind.

The new package, called Redboard, enables the PC to be used as a stand-alone PCB design workstation, or as part of a network of computer-aided design workstations collectively covering every aspect of electronic equipment design.

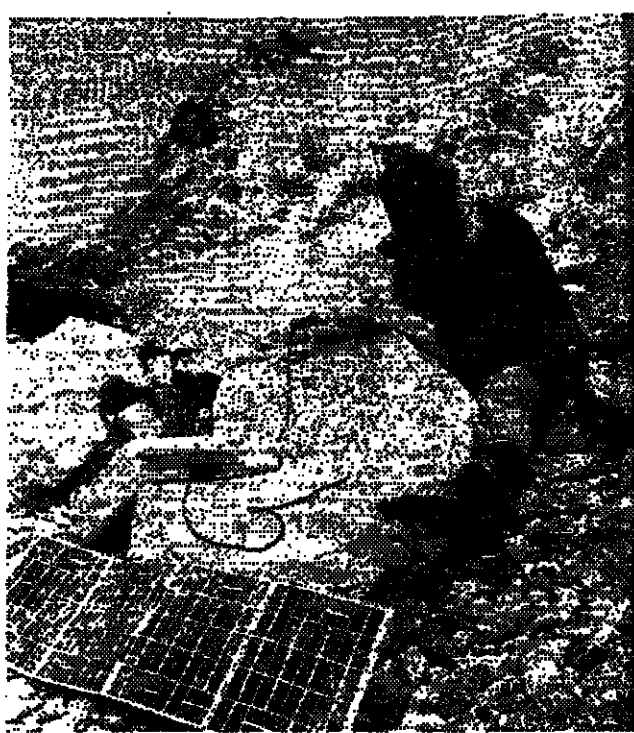
Its 166-man years' worth of software provides the key features of current expensive PCB CAD workstations, and can be cost-justified by companies designing only a few boards a year, according to Racal-Redac's managing director, Ian Orrock. He said: "The capital cost involved is affordable by all companies: for about £16,000, we are offering a system for which other vendors would charge three times as much."

Redboard is already proving popular in the company's largest market, the US. Its US subsidiary, Racal-Redac Inc., demonstrated the system privately two months ago, and immediately secured more than 100 orders. In addition to the UK and the US, it has sales operations in the rest of Europe, Japan and South-East Asia. It is estimated to have more than 11 per cent of the world market for PCB design systems.

Chinese puzzlers

In the past two years, computer technology has become more widespread and more computers, especially micro computers, are being bought in China, according to the People's Daily. It is estimated that there are more than 70,000 computers in use throughout the country and about 55 per cent of them are no longer merely used for digital calculation but also for data processing, production control and in automated systems.

But a lot of computers are standing idle and there is great wastage. Optimistic estimates indicate that only 50 per cent of computers are in effective operation whereas in highly industrialised countries computer utilisation can be as high as 85 per cent.



Last week Chris Bonington reached the top of Everest and is pictured here using an Apple IIc micro running off solar panels. The computer was used for logistical planning, stock control, answering letters and giving reports. Despite the hi-tech word processing facilities, the letters produced then had to be taken to Katmandu by runners.

The losses resulting from these idle computers alone, can reach as high as 10.5 billion yuan (3,559 to the pound) and this excludes the profits they could potentially be contributing.

The main reason for this, according to Chinese press reports, is the shortage of qualified computer science professionals and the under-development of software. Users are not sufficiently

prepared for the use of computers and often choose unrealistic models. Inadequate servicing also contributed to the problem.

Many buyers purchase their computers in a hurry without first ensuring the necessary preparations and end up with leaving the computers to stand idle, for the lack of technicians and software.

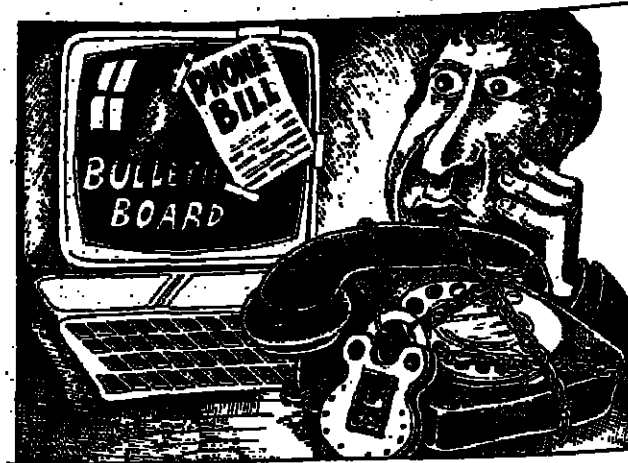
The BB: A fine meal - if you can get to read the board

By David Hewson

"Waiting for Answerback" is not the name of a new play by Samuel Beckett but an affliction which now affects a large part of the British computer population.

The symptoms are irritability, nervous tension and an apparently hate-filled obsession with the telephone. If your loved one can be found huddled in a corner with a computer keyboard, endlessly dialling, cursing at every engaged signal, and looking at the fatal three words which began this article, it must be presumed that your family has now fallen victim to the bulletin-board disease.

For the uninitiated I should perhaps explain just what a bulletin board is. Though at the present rate a new one opens at least once a month, their relative anonymity cannot be guaranteed for long. A BB is simply a computer connected to a modem, a gizmo which enables it to talk to other computers over the phone, and running a special communications (henceforth to be known as comms) program. With this little set-up, it is possible to keep your computer running 24 hours a day, dealing with calls from all over the world, fishing out information and programs and handling messages for all and sundry. Those in the know now reckon they can put together a working BB for under



More and more computer enthusiasts are setting up their own information systems, known as bulletin boards, which offer a mixture of advice, gossip, electronic notices and free software. DAVID HEWSON joins the band of BB users and finds all is not quite plain sailing

£1,000 using secondhand equipment.

But how do you connect with one of the boards? First of all you buy a copy of *Personal Computer World* or *Practical Computing*, which list about 30 existing boards. Then you make sure your computer hardware and software are configured properly so that both ends are talking the same language. Most boards use the same comms software, a programme known as TBS, and it rapidly becomes familiar.

You need to set the correct speed on your own equipment. Most boards operate at 300 characters a second, which sounds a lot but is actually rather plodding.

And when that's all done, you make your first call and book an express ticket to frustration. Callers cannot complain, although they do. You see, because BBs are usually amateur affairs, run by computer enthusiasts out of the goodness of their hearts, they can deal with only one caller at a time. So the most popular ones are engaged most of the time, even though they impose a time limit, usually 20 minutes, on their users.

Is it that bad? Well, one board I called recently blithely told me that I was caller 19,022. How do you handle that many people one at a time? At peak periods, such as the weekends, it is virtually impossible to get through. If you are lucky enough to have a Thursday afternoon off, things might just be a little better.

For those of you who have been infuriated by the constantly engaged tone, let me shed a little light on what you

For anyone not a freak there is a danger

find when you finally do get through. Most systems come up with a main menu offering a number of services. There is a private electronic mail board where messages can be left and retrieved, and a public board for anyone who wants to talk to the world.

Special-interest group sections are devoted to people who have the same computer or complementary software interests, and tips and grouches are exchanged. Virtually every system has a section where free software can be down-loaded to your own machine for later use. The programs vary from the very useful to the jocular but they are worth a try, and, like everything else in a BB, they're free apart from the telephone

call and the occasional registration charge being demanded from some systems.

Most boards have their share of bobs and for anyone who is not a dedicated computer freak, there can be a danger of a surfeit of jargon. Sometimes there is genuine comedy, like the wonderful PIP board in Sheffield which has transmuted its basic software into a pseudo Gothic novel to pounce on new callers. Most are led upstairs by titillating stories of satins and romance... and find, when they arrive, that they're in a Lonely Hearts Club section.

What is astonishing to those of us who want to use computers without knowing too much about how they work is just how helpful real computer experts can be. I had been dragging myself around a "sophisticated" computer shop after computer shop asking a few thorny questions about my own system for months.

They were solved on the spot by the organizer of one London board. Pouring out my heart to the dumb machine, a message suddenly flashed on my screen "Sysop breaking in for a chat", which meant that the systems

One suspects that B Tel is the main winner

operator was coming into the communication routine live. In two minutes he told me everything I needed to know.

BBs are clearly going to mushroom this year, as more people using cheap home micros such as the BBC and the Commodore 64 realize how easy it is to become involved in communications.

There will also be business implications. One canny south London company, Budget Typesetting, has bought what is basically a TBS system to use as a 24-hour storage medium for its customers.

It transmits files produced on its own word-processing software, and Typenet, as Budget calls its system, can store it before transferring it to a typesetter without being re-keyed.

Of course, it may not be long before that particular number is permanently engaged too. The bulletin board explosion can benefit the average computer owner who is willing to be patient enough to learn how to use it. But one suspects that the people at British Telecom, the most out of the whole thing are the people at British Telecom. One board must be worth a hundred advertisements telling the public that it's time to call home.

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Don't call us DP, say the communications set

Paradits are fond of saying that the communications industry today is like the computer industry was 10 years ago. After all, phones still rely on the sorts of chips used in the first desktop machines, digital switchboards are only just being plugged in to integrated office automation, and the job of communications manager is only now getting the same sort of money and perks as data-processing managers.

Communications managers, however, are putting pressure on their employers to treat them differently from their DP cousins. The reason for their dissatisfaction with current employment practices is rooted in both management structures and technology. A typical mainframe is run by the DP manager with stalwart systems analysts and clusters of programmers and computer operators. Each time IBM comes out with the latest software release, everyone has their work cut out.

In communications, most of the work is in putting up the system. Each desk has its feature phone or terminal. Cable has to be routed, non-technical users trained and cellular telephones put in the fleet. The buying and managerial decisions need experts. They usually have more than 10 years' experience and many get paid more than £20,000 a year. But when the kit is up and running there are no programmers to tend the hardware. The expert becomes a machine minder. They see the solution as

the introduction of the "project contract".

The effect of such deals puts staff somewhere between consultancy and permanent posts because a typical project contract lasts for one to two years, compared with a matter of months for a consultant.

Recruitment agencies and communications managers see the project contract as the ideal solution. The insecurity of consultancy is avoided and employers can fit the communications expert into the management team. When an entire site

JOB SCENE

By Danny Green

is to be rewired, the project contract looks like a way of employing the best people and keeping them happy.

The project contract also makes more sense in terms of corporate structure. Hierarchies built around computers are well-established and career paths are clear. If top management decides that the introduction of modern digital voice links is best done by new blood, a clash of interests with the DP manager is likely.

Communications managers feel that the project contracts gives loyal expertise while avoiding damaging clashes of personality. They and the recruitment teams already know it makes sense. It remains only for the bosses to be persuaded.

01-837 0668 LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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We have an immediate vacancy for an able and experienced Company and Commercial Solicitor to assist with our growing range of responsible and exacting work. Candidates should have a minimum of two years' qualification with a good firm having gained general experience in company and commercial matters including work for public companies. The successful candidate should command above average legal skills coupled with the commercial awareness that this firm's clients expect.

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ASA LAW

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Bank of Scotland, Staff Department
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Salary will be according to age and experience.

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Require 2 able and enthusiastic young solicitors to act as assistants to the conveyancing partners. They should preferably have had some post-qualification experience in commercial conveyancing. Good salary, partnership prospects.

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ASSISTANT SOLICITOR CONVEYANCING

TROWER, STILL & KEELING require an able Solicitor with 2-3 years admitted commercial conveyancing experience to undertake a wide range of responsible and interesting conveyancing for commercial and corporate clients, with some residential work.

Package includes competitive salary, pension scheme, BUPA, four weeks holiday and other usual benefits.

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WALTONS & MORSE

have a vacancy for a recently qualified solicitor to assist with the work in their Company/Commercial department. A newly qualified solicitor will be considered; but preferably the applicant should have had some post-qualification experience with another City firm.

C.V.'s or requests for further information to:

The Partnership Secretary, Waltons & Morse, Plantation House, 31/35 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 3NN.

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£12,371 to £18,811 per annum
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Our client is a major international organisation involved in land transport, shipping and air freight operations. With a total staff of over 30,000, the corporation provides this comprehensive range of freight services throughout the world. This opportunity arises within the European Group which employs over 2,000 people.

Their requirement is for a Corporate Secretary who will be based in Arnhem, and will report directly to the Finance and Administration Manager.

The successful applicant will be responsible for Europe-wide co-ordination of all legal

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This is a senior management position and the ideal candidate will have extensive commercial experience and at least one European language. Salary is negotiable according to experience and will prove attractive.

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Specialise in Commercial Insurance Litigation towards early partnership

My clients had five partners in 1970. Since then the partnership has doubled in size every five years and they now have 42 partners of whom all but one specialise in international shipping, insurance and transport. The partners are young (only two aged over 45) and the atmosphere is informal. The firm believes in independence and early partnership. Four years ago a small team was established to deal with an increasing number of large, complex international disputes between insurers. The team has expanded, but the workload grows even faster. The cases are varied and absorbing, requiring a good mind and a highly developed sense of humour. Initiative, imagination and an eye for detail are also essential. If you are about to qualify or have qualified in the last two years with a good City firm and wish to know more, telephone me, Mrs. Indira Brown, 01 222 5555, Corporate Resourcing Group, 6 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RL. Or if you prefer, at home between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. on 01 979 3003.

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Mitel has earned an outstanding reputation as an international leader in the field of advanced telecommunications.

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An attractive salary is offered plus a company car and an excellent range of benefits.

The job is based at our own purpose-built headquarters building close to the Severn Bridge in Caldicot, Gwent.

Please write with full CV to Peter Frain at the address below.



BUILDING BETTER COMMUNICATIONS WORLDWIDE

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A Division of The National Video Corporation group of companies, newly-formed to continue the group's production internationally of live opera, choral and ballet performance and other arts programming is seeking to appoint a solicitor as **DIVISIONAL PRODUCTION LAWYER** (preferably with not less than 3 years relevant post-admission experience) to take responsibility for legal matters connected with the operation of the Division including the negotiation and conclusion of contracts and the management of rights. Practical experience gained in the film industry (preferably both production and distribution), an imaginative commercial awareness, a willingness to travel, tenacity and determination are essential. Knowledge of a continental European language would be of advantage. Salary by negotiation reflecting age and experience. Please apply in writing with C.V. before 17th May 1985 and in confidence to Robert Carter, The National Video Corporation Limited, 32 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PB.

Company/Commercial

We are looking for a solicitor of up to 2 years' experience since qualification to join this Dept. The work is principally in the banking, financial and investment field but some experience of intellectual property would be an advantage.

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City Wall House,
79-83 Cheswell Street,
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We are looking for an Assistant Solicitor who - Has 2 or 3 years' experience in litigation and advocacy - is able and willing to specialise in that field - is interested in joining an established and expanding practice

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(Ref ASC/11)

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A vacancy has arisen for a solicitor who has the ability and the experience to play a significant part in the work of the Legal Division. The duties of the post will include advising on a wide range of legal matters arising out of the Council's involvement with the North East London Polytechnic, so some knowledge and experience of education law would be an advantage. The postholder will, however, have the opportunity to undertake a variety of other legal work, so the main attributes needed are a wide general experience coupled with the ability to tackle new problems in a flexible and positive fashion.

The work is varied and interesting and should suit someone who has at least five years admitted experience (preferable but not necessarily in local government), including substantial experience of litigation work and employment law, and is keen to develop a career in local government law and administration.

Solicitor's Articled Clerk

(Ref 'E110)

Applications are invited for the above post in the Council's Legal Department. Applicants should be graduates and have passed the Law Society's Final Examinations.

Being an Outer London Borough, Newham has the full range of local authority functions, so this post offers experience not only in the basic legal subjects such as conveyancing and litigation, but also in a great variety of local authority legal work.

The salary will be on (Scale 1-2/3 £5577 - £7077 p.a. inclusive) and the starting point will depend upon qualifications and experience.

Application forms are available from the Chief Executive, Town Hall, East Ham, London E6 2RP or telephone 01 471 0619 (24 hour answering service) quoting appropriate reference. Closing date: 15th May 1985.



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We are looking for a

SOLICITOR

either recently admitted or with up to one year's post admission experience, to assist in the investigation, handling and defence of professional liability claims and insurance and reinsurance disputes. Applicants should have had experience of High Court litigation either in articles or since admission. Some knowledge of insurance work would be an advantage but is by no means essential.

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Michael J. Pugh,

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London EC2M 2FJ

Assistant Company Secretary

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This philosophy reflects the scope now offered to our new Assistant Company Secretary to make a personal impact on policy and practice in his/her sphere. Your brief will be two-fold.

It will involve you, using appropriate specialist support, in co-ordinating Company legal matters, solving problems and providing advice in a number of areas including contracts, licensing and litigation.

But as well as this you'll be expected to assess with a legal bias our commercial operations, to influence success from a business standpoint and create new and better ways of doing things.

You'll certainly find enough rein to do the job - it's up to you to run with it. Your background?

Probably legal - either full or part qualified with some commercial experience and a knowledge of Company and commercial law. Alternatively, you could be a qualified C.S.

But more important than your age or qualifications will be the enthusiasm and sheer professionalism to develop this role - and your career - in line with Toshiba's future growth.

In return, an attractive salary will be complemented by a progressive range of management benefits.

Please forward your c.v. in confidence to: Pippa Glascock, Personnel Manager, Toshiba (UK) Limited, Toshiba House, Frimley Road, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5JJ.



Part-time Assistant Legal Adviser

Debenhams PLC is a large and progressive retail group with 68 department stores and substantial interests in financial services, footwear and other activities.

We are looking for a qualified Solicitor who combines commercial appreciation and creativity with an outgoing personality and the ability to communicate with all levels of management, to spend 2-3 days per week assisting the Group Legal Adviser.

The successful applicant will be based in Central London and will deal with a wide range of legal matters including Consumer, Commercial, Company and Employment Law. The position is therefore likely to appeal to someone with commercial experience gained either within private practice or within a commercial organisation.

In return we offer an attractive salary and flexible working hours.

Please write with full c.v. to: Miss G. M. Hand, Group Personnel Department, Debenhams PLC, 1 Welbeck Street, London W1A 1DF.



Lebanese defiant as Israelis quit Tyre

Continued from page 1

city peninsular, and a series of broken buildings and earth embankments.

All that could be found at the old Shin Bet headquarters were thousands of civilians who were interrogated over the past three years, was the broken shell of a three-storey building whose floors were littered with Israeli newspapers and a letter to an Israeli soldier in Hebrew from his girlfriend in South Africa. The word "death" had been written on a wall beside some graffiti with Hebrew writing alongside it.

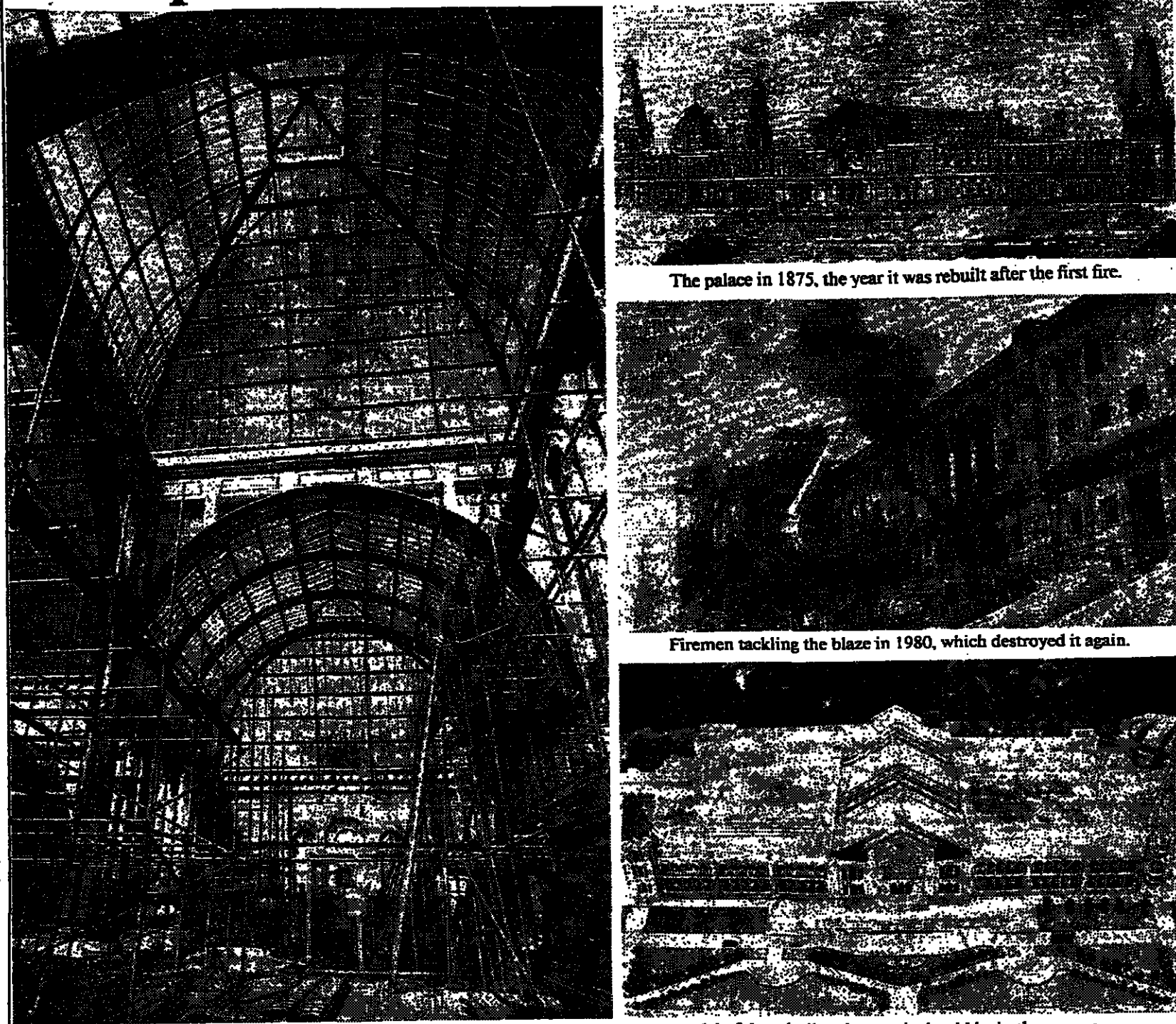
There were other signs of liberation. The surviving bridge across the Litan River has been renamed "Mohamed Saade Bridge" by Amal in memory of the guerrilla leader killed in a bomb explosion at Maarake last month. Down at Yatar, in the UN-UN battalion area, Israel's "South Lebanon Army" militia allies were still packing their bags under the eyes of two Israeli officers. The Israelis forced even UN traffic to stop while they were extricating the Lebanese gunmen south towards their border.

But for the UN, it was the gunmen who suddenly appeared in villages across dozens of square miles of southern Lebanon who created the most pressing problem. Four of them tried to set up a checkpoint outside the village of Qana.

The UN were amazed to find that the gunmen had been concealing their weapons in the villages throughout three years of occupation despite repeated and sometimes brutal raids on the villages by the Israeli army. Most of the guerrillas pointed out openly that they would not embarrass the UN by actually passing through UN checkpoints.

With Tyre evacuated by the Israelis, only a strip of border territory up to 10 miles deep now remains in Israeli hands. None of this, however, resolves the plight of up to 50,000 Christian refugees in Jozineh outside Sidon where Muslim and Palestinian guerrillas are firmly in control. At least 2,000 of the Christians have already made their way southwards - to the very line of Israel's new buffer zone.

The phoenix of north London rises again



Above: The interior of the Palm Court nearing completion. Above right: A model of the rebuilt palace, as it should be in three years.

The £35 million restoration of Alexandra Palace, destroyed by fire in 1980, proceeds gradually (David Nicholson-Lord writes). The latest section to be completed is the West Tower, which was used in the early days of the project to test many of the complex brickwork colouring and refacing techniques involved.

When finished in about nine years, the "people's palace" of Muswell Hill, built in 1873 "to refine and elevate the public taste", will be an exhibition, conference and events centre more in

tune with the demands of the late twentieth-century.

The palace, described by one critic as straddling the north London skyline "like a great whale beached on an alien shore", was destroyed by fire 16 days after its first opening in 1873. Within two years a new building had been constructed, typically grandiose, complete with white brickwork and mansard-style roofs.

Two-thirds of the palace was destroyed in the

second fire in July 1980, but the outside walls were judged sound enough to be retained. Last year local residents' groups withdrew their opposition to Haringey council's plans after it gave up the idea of a Disneyland on the site and agreed ratepayers would not subsidize the palace, which made no money in the past.

Internal reconstruction will be almost total. The Palm Court lantern has been restored at a cost of £500,000 and work is continuing this year on the Great Hall and Palm Court.

Letter from Washington

A war, a shrine and the torment

Of all the images of the Vietnam war crowding in on Americans on television, and in newspapers and magazines, none is more affecting than the Black Wall, the butcher's bill, the memorial bearing the names of 58,000 dead. It is touched constantly by kisses and by the reaching hands of children and old friends; and far into the night people come to find comrades and sons in the long lists of loss.

The Wall is the country's most important reference point as Americans reflect on the war that ended ten years ago. During the next few days television programmes, exploring the war and wringing it for its meanings, reach climax. Both on television and in the press, the tormenting images have been repeated constantly: the street execution, the terrified fleeing girl, My Lai, Kent State, wounded soldiers, draft card burning and the scramble for helicopters at the fall of Saigon.

But almost every editor has put the Black Wall on his cover. Since it was opened three years ago millions have journeyed to Washington to see it. There are no petty rules or opening hours. It is the people's shrine, they run their finger tips over the names of the dead, they photograph and take pencil rubbings, they place letters, flowers, flags and faded old teddy bears. Standing in groups the visitors embrace each other and cry and, because the granite is highly polished, they see themselves reflected through the lists of dead.

There's an American rhythm to the names, inscribed with the middle initials - Willard A. Philson, Dan T. Washington, Ulisses G. Burroughs - and they are listed in the order in which they died.

The creation of this memorial by veterans themselves marked a turning point in America's thinking about the war they had lost. The Vietnam years were buried under shock and shame. Many of the 6 million men who served in Vietnam had found themselves despised on their return. Johnny was spat on when he came marching home. He was also treated

shabbily by successive governments. President Reagan said the war was noble, but his administration is regarded bitterly by veterans for cutting federal programmes meant to help them.

Still, the Wall represented a re-emergence of the veterans. Instead of guilt it is all right now for them to feel pride in national experience is now in the open through films, plays, a spate of books and television documentaries.

Ten years after the war ended, 20 years after the marines splashed ashore, 30 years after the Americans first became involved in Vietnam, Americans are gradually exploring the lessons. Old

arguments still rage. A belief is still expressed that the war could have been won with more bombing and stronger political nerve.

General William Westmoreland's recent libel case here was billed as the refigiting of the war. Perhaps the most astonishing statement in that futile exercise was that made by Robert McNamara, the former Defence Secretary, that as early as 1965 he believed the war could not be won.

Because of Vietnam, Americans lost faith in government, generals and journalists. Many believe the war was mismanaged politically and militarily. They were left painfully educated about the limits of power and dubious about American involvement in jungle wars.

Americans are also being shown the aftermath of war in Vietnam and the way 467,000 Vietnamese refugees are succeeding or failing in America.

They are learning too how quickly events become history. A recent poll showed that two-fifths of Americans could not say which side America was on in the Vietnam war. A young soldier, questioned by a reporter was surprised to learn his country had lost the war. The old man's ink fading away like the ink running from the anguished notes at the Black Wall.

Trevor Fishlock

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh visits a replica ship of the "Godspeed" before its departure on a voyage of reconstruction to Jamestown, USA, from Island Gardens, Isle of Dogs, 9.45; then visits the Joint Service Defence College, Greenwich, 10.45; later, as President of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, chairs the Council's annual general meeting, Carpenters' Hall, EC2, 2.40; in the evening he attends dinner to mark the retirement of Lord Goodman as President of the National Book League, Garrick Club, WC2, 7.45.

Princess Anne opens the modernized factory of Samuel Moore Foods at Easton, Wilts, 2.30.

Princess Margaret attends a gala at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in aid of Sadler's Wells Theatre Development Fund and the

Royal Opera House Development Fund, 7.25

The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron, attends the annual general meeting of The Kensington Society, Town Hall, Kensington & Chelsea, 6.15.

Princess Alexandra opens Barrie James House, the centre of the Leukaemia and Cancer Children's Unit Fund (Scotland), at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, 2; and later, as Vice-Patron of the Royal Overseas League, visits Overseas House, 100 Princes St, Edinburgh, 3.45.

New exhibitions

Cyriot antiquities from the Desmond Morris Collection; Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont St, Oxford; Tues to Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 4 (ends May 30).

Photographs for picture post by Kurt Hutton; Rozelle House, Rozelle Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends May 14).

Exhibitions in progress

Flowerpieces: screenprints by Derrick Greaves; Red House Museum, Quay Rd, Chichester; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends May 25).

Portraits of craftsmen by Adrian Ford; Willis Museum, Old Town Hall Market Place, Basingstoke; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4 (ends May 25).

The First Americans: the art of the North American Indian; Andover Museum, Church Close, Andover; Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (ends May 18).

Glenn's Sida - images in embroidery; collage; Haverly Museum, East St; Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (ends May 25).

Recent paintings by Donald McIntyre; Phoenix Gallery, Lavenham, Suffolk; 10 to 5.30.

Shoreline: three artists from Orkney; Collins Gallery, Strathclyde University, 22, Richmond St, Glasgow; 10 to 5.

Masterworks by Robert Standish-Sweeney; The Constable Studio, Oswington, Dorset; 10 to 5.30.

Local life in Latimer's time organised by the Leicestershire Record Office, Old School, Anstey Lane, Thurgarton; 7 to 9pm.

MUSIC

Organ recital by Simon Lindley; Leeds Town Hall, 1.05.

Concert by the Endellion String Quartet; North Worcestershire College, Bromsgrove, 7.45.

The Son says that Mr Ken Johnson (clarinet) and Edward Moore (piano); St David's Hall, Cardiff, 1.05.

Organ recital by Ronald Frost and Douglas Steele; St Ann's Church, Manchester, 12.45.

Concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; Birmingham Town Hall, 7.30.

Talks, lectures

South Africa, by Ralph Brown; Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret St, Birmingham, 8.

The moral education of moral educators, by Prof D Wright; School of Education, Leicester University, 7.30.

William Ely RA; by Richard Green; York City Art Gallery, Exhibition Sq, 8.

The papers

The Mirror. Commenting on the selection of Mr Ken Livingston as Labour candidate for Brent East, says that his opponent, Mr Reg Fresson, is "a bad loser who can't accept a democratic decision".

The Sun says that Mr Ken Livingston "snatched the GLC leadership after the votes were safely counted". It adds: "Now he is seeking a new power base by grabbing the parliamentary seat of his hapless socialist comrade Reg Fresson at Brent".

Anniversaries

Births: Mary II reigned 1689-94, London, 1662; David Thompson, explorer, London, 1770; Franz Lehár, Komárom, Hungary, 1870.

Deaths: James Montgomery, poet and hymn writer, Sheffield, 1854; Edmond Massey, Paris, 1883; A. E. Housman, scholar and poet, Cambridge, 1936; Adolf Hitler, Berlin, 1945; Sir Almon Wright, bacteriologist, Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire, 1947.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending April 27.

1. Coronation Street (Mon), Granada, 17.50m

2. Goldfinger (Sat), 17.05m

3. Coronation Street (Wed), Granada, 16.25m

4. News at Ten (Mon), ITV, 13.25m

5. Coronation Street (Tue), Granada, 13.45m

6. Coronation Street (Thu), Granada, 13.10m

7. The Press in Right, Central, 13.10m

8. Susan's Holiday, Granada, 12.75m

9. This is Your Life, Thames, 12.55m

10. Murder, Thames, 12.50m

11. The Kenny Everett Television Show, 12.35m

12. Dallas, 12.25m

13. Times Up Two Down, 11.25m

14. News and Sport (Sat), 11.20m

15. News (Sunday), 11.15m

16. Coronation Street (Fri), 10.55m

17. The Young Ones, 10.50m

18. The 10.30, 10.30m

19. News at Ten (Wed), 9.50m

20. Sunday Grandstand, 9.10m

21. Forty Minutes, 8.25m

22. World Snooker (Tue), 7.50m

23. The 7.30, 7.30m

24. World Snooker (Mon), 7.15m

25. World Snooker (Sun), 7.15m

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Roads

The Midlands: M5: Lane closures on both carriageways between junction 3 (A456 Birmingham West and Halesowen) and junction 8 (M50); contraflow between junction 4 and 5; get into lane early when leaving the motorway at junction 3 or you may have to continue to the next exit. M6: Lanes closed on both carriageways between junctions 3 (A444, Coventry) and 4 (M42, Birmingham East). Warwickshire: The south: A49: Temporary lights and diversions on Scotland Rd, Warrington, Cheshire. A534: Major resurfacing work in Haslington, E of Crewe; temporary traffic lights in use. M6: Expansion joint repairs have closed the westbound carriageway at junction 4 (Bathgate), with a contraflow on the eastbound A5. Single lane traffic with lights along High Golspe, due to resurfacing work. Sutherland.

Motorway closures

The M5 motorway is to be closed on 30 nights during a four-year £44 million contract to widen its carriageway. The closures, which start next week, are to allow the removal of 11 bridges in Hereford and Worcester.

A six week closure of a section of the A23 London to Brighton road, began yesterday while a bridge is built linking Gatwick airport's new £200 million second terminal, and the existing one. Traffic diversions have been signposted and will remain in force during the length of the work.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Insolvency Bill, second reading.

Lords (2.30): Local Government Bill, committee, second day.

Portfolio

Portfolio - how to play

Monday-Thursday record your daily Portfolio total

Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total

If you find little matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won tonight or 3 shares of the prize money noted for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim

Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line (0254-65272) between 10.00 am and 5.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches the published weekly dividend. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call the Portfolio claims line between 10.00 am and 5.30 pm.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to claim the prize money for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

Some Times Portfolio cards include minor mistakes in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.

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Weather forecast

Frontal troughs will cross most parts from the W.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S, central N England, Midlands: Cloudy, occasional rain and drizzle, hill fog, some bright intervals; wind NW moderate; max temp 11C (52F).

East Angles, E, NE England: Cloudy, light rain and drizzle at times; wind W moderate; max temp 10C (50F).

Channel Islands, SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow: Cloudy, occasional rain and drizzle, hill fog, becoming brighter and mainly dry; wind NW moderate or brisk; max temp 12C (54F).

Barren, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Light rain and drizzle at times; wind W or NW light or moderate; max temp 12C (54F).

Angly, NW Scotland: Sunny or bright intervals, showers, heavy at times; wind NW moderate; max temp 11C (52F).

Shetland: Cloudy, light rain and drizzle, perhaps sleet at first; wind variable light; max temp 7C (45F).

Northern Ireland: Sunny or bright intervals, scattered showers; wind NW moderate; max temp 12C (54F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Brighter with showers, prolonged at times in the E; rain falling spreading to SW; rather cold in the N and E, near normal in the SW.

SEA PASSAGES: 6 North Sea: Wind light veering NW fresh or strong; occasional rain or drizzle; visibility moderate or good; sea slightly becoming rough. Strait of Dover, English Channel: Wind W to NW fresh occasionally variable moderate or good; sea visibility moderate or good; see moderate or rough.

Full Moon: May 4.

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; m, mist; s, sunny; d, drizzle.

London: 5.35 am, 8.22 pm

Moon sets: Moon rises: 2.01 pm

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; m, mist; s, sunny; d, drizzle.

London: 5.35 am, 8.22 pm

Moon sets: Moon rises: 2.01 pm

Lighting-up time

London: 8.02 pm to 5.00 am

Edinburgh: 8.02 pm to 5.13 am

Manchester: 8.07 pm to 5.15 am

Pennance: 8.10 pm to 5.28 pm

London: 8.02 pm to 5.00 am

Edinburgh: 8.02 pm to 5.13 am

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